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## THE ASSASSINATION OF PRESIDENT LINCOLN.

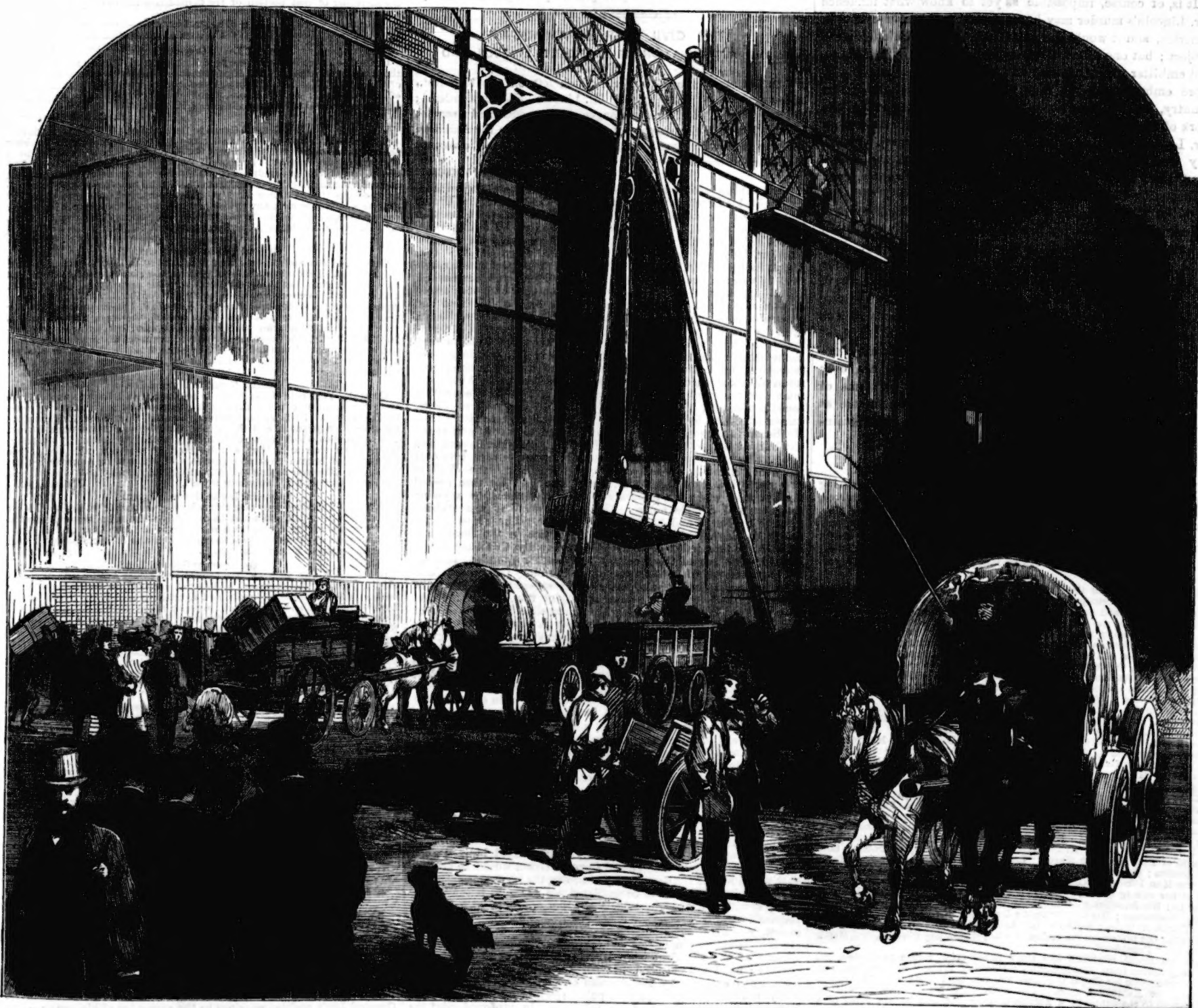
AN atrocious crime, which is at the same time an act of supreme folly, has been perpetrated at Washington. President Lincoln has been killed, and Mr. Seward dangerously, if not mortally, wounded by assassins. These acts can only excite one feeling throughout the civilised world—that of abhorrence of such monstrous deeds. Whatever difference of opinion may exist as to the policy Mr. Lincoln has pursued towards the South, and whatever bitterness may have been engendered in that region for acts perpetrated in his name, though, it may be, without his knowledge or sanction, the hand of the assassin was not the instrument by which such differences could be reconciled or such real or fancied wrongs redressed. The act, we feel assured, is that of individual fanatics alone, and cannot receive the sanction or approval of the Southern people, much less of the men who have played such prominent and honourable parts in the great drama which for the last four years has been enacted on American soil. It is one of the evils attendant upon war, and especially civil war, that, as private wrongs are inflicted and

private rancour is engendered, ill-regulated and fanatical minds are apt to adopt the notion that by the death of the person or persons whom they regard as the cause of their wrongs right can be done and the perpetration of mischief stayed. The leaders of the Secession are men far above entertaining such miserable ideas as must have animated the assassins of Mr. Lincoln and Mr. Seward; and, until the contrary be proved, we must acquit them of all participation in so heinous a crime. Mr. Davis and his colleagues know that murder must ever stain, and can never serve any cause; and we believe them as morally incapable of sanctioning assassination as they must be well aware of its inutility.

Assassination never attains the end it aims at. An individual life may be sacrificed, but the evil supposed to be embodied in the individual is never eradicated. The assassination of Julius Caesar did not save the liberties of Rome—indeed, it accelerated their annihilation and made way for the proscriptions of the second Triumvirate. The murder of William the Silent, at Delft, did not preserve the Low Countries to Spain or check the Dutch in their struggle for liberty. The

death of Henry of Navarre by the hand of Ravaillac did not improve the condition of France; it only introduced the troubles of a long and capricious regency. Felton's assassination of Buckingham did not put a stop to the favouritism and tyranny of Charles I., though it tended to embitter the struggle which shortly after followed by imbuing the King's mind with the notion that his favourite's death was the result of factious intrigue, and not, as it really was, of individual fanaticism or desire of vengeance for personal wrongs. Nor will the murder of Abraham Lincoln in any way contribute to repair the disasters of the South. On the contrary, it must needs tend to embitter the quarrel and hinder the possibility of a settlement at all favourable to the conquered.

Mr. Lincoln was not entitled to be reckoned a great man; but his was a nature at least sincere and kindly, if somewhat unpolished. A gigantic task, and what he deemed a sacred duty, devolved upon him when he took possession of the presidential chair at Washington; and he strove to accomplish what he considered his mission by the only means he saw



THE FORTHCOMING INTERNATIONAL EXHIBITION AT DUBLIN: DELIVERING GOODS AT THE SOUTH ENTRANCE OF THE BUILDING.



available—that of force. In the course of the war he has had to employ men utterly unworthy of his confidence, and he may even have allowed things to be done in the name of the United States which it would be hard to justify. But we must make allowance for the difficulties of his position, the immensity of the work he set himself to perform, and the unascertained character of some of the instruments he was forced to employ. Even these he got rid of so soon as their conduct became too gross to be tolerated. If he did put almost unlimited power in the hands of men of the Milroy, M'Neil, and Butler class, he removed them when circumstances permitted of better being substituted for them. At all events, it is difficult to believe that his successor will act more wisely or more humanely than he has done; that Mr. Johnson, who now becomes President, is half so worthy to fill that high post as was Abraham Lincoln, or that he will surround himself with better counsellors than Mr. Seward and his colleagues. The character and conduct of the new President are not such as to inspire much confidence in his wisdom or magnanimity, and should Mr. Seward, the ablest, and by repute the most moderate, of Mr. Lincoln's advisers, also perish, America—both North and South—will have reason to mourn the loss she has sustained. American Presidents have not been wont to pay much regard to pomp and ceremony, or to affect the exclusiveness and mystery with which Kings love to surround themselves, but there was a simple dignity in their manner of bearing themselves which we fear will be but poorly sustained by the new occupant of the White House. If Mr. Lincoln was little gifted with the graces of polished manners, and did not display many of the elegancies of composition in his public documents, Mr. Johnson is by all accounts absolutely boorish and illiterate. If Mr. Lincoln's public utterances were open to criticism, what are his successor's likely to be? If Mr. Lincoln was somewhat stern; if he relied more on force than on persuasion; if he had but one idea and one means of carrying it out; and if he cared little how utterly he broke that which refused to bend to his will; will the South find in Mr. Johnson a milder-mannered man, or one more likely to deal mercifully with them in the hour of their prostration? We fear not; and therefore is it that we regard the conduct of the assassins of Mr. Lincoln and Mr. Seward—if, indeed, these assassins were actuated by aught save personal thirst of vengeance or a morbid craving for notoriety—as a huge blunder as well as an atrocious crime.

It is, of course, impossible as yet to know what influence Mr. Lincoln's murder may have upon the course of events in America, and it would therefore be vain to speculate on the subject; but one effect it must have, and that is, to inflame and embitter popular feeling in the North, and so render still more embarrassing the task of settling the affairs of the country, and, if possible, of beginning and perfecting the work of healing and reconciliation which it would seem from Mr. Lincoln's last reported remarks he had at heart. Under any circumstances, to reunite the South and the North must have been attended with enormous difficulties, even if armed resistance had been abandoned; but, with the blood of their murdered Chief Magistrate added to that already shed, the minds of the people of the North can be in but an indifferent frame for mercy and peacemaking. It is to be hoped that they will not give way to a blind desire for vengeance and wreak upon a whole people the anger which can be merited by but few, even if others besides the two men concerned in its perpetration were cognisant of the crime. The South, it is true, have still forces in the field, and might prolong the struggle for a time; but they can now have small chance of ultimate success, and can only hope, by appearing formidable, to secure better terms of peace. May not the blood shed wantonly in the theatre at Washington rise up as an insuperable obstacle to their attainment!

#### THE DUBLIN INTERNATIONAL EXHIBITION.

THE preparations for the opening of the Exhibition are making rapid progress. All the articles for display have now been received, and the task of arrangement is being prosecuted with assiduity. Our illustration, from a sketch taken while the work of delivery was at the busiest point, shows the reception of goods at the south, or main, entrance to the building. The programme for the opening ceremony on Tuesday, the 9th of May, has been finally arranged, and is as follows:—

His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales, accompanied by their Excellencies the Lord Lieutenant and Lady Wodehouse, and attended by their respective suites, will arrive at the Exhibition building at two o'clock, and will be received by the reception committee and conducted to the dais, the orchestra performing the National Anthem. When His Royal Highness and their Excellencies have taken their seats, an address from the Exhibition committee will be presented to his Royal Highness, and the Prince having replied, the orchestra will perform "With one consent let all the earth." The chairman of the executive committee will then read to his Royal Highness a report of the proceedings of the committee, and his Royal Highness having replied, the chairman will present to his Royal Highness a catalogue of the articles exhibited, and the secretary of the Exhibition committee will present to his Royal Highness the key of the building. The orchestra will then perform Handel's "Coronation Anthem." After which the Right Honourable the Lord Mayor of Dublin, in his robes of office, accompanied by the members of the Corporation of the city of Dublin, will present an address from the Corporation to the city of Dublin, to which his Royal Highness will reply. The choir will then sing Haydn's "The Heavens are telling." This having been concluded, the following procession will be formed, and will conduct his Royal Highness through the building:—Architects; Superintendents of the various departments: Fine Arts, Engineering, Indian, Colonial, British, and Agricultural; Secretary of Executive Committee; General Superintendent; Secretary of Exhibition Committee; Exhibition Committee; Foreign Commissioners and Representatives; Athlone Pursuivant of Arms; High Sheriff of the city of Dublin; Lord Mayor of York and other Mayors; Lord Provost of Edinburgh; Lord Mayor of London; Commander of the Forces; Chief Secretary of Ireland; Knights of the Most Illustrious Order of St. Patrick; the Lord Chancellor, supported on either side by the Duke of Argyll and the Duke of Devonshire; the Lord Mayor of Dublin; His Excellency the Hon. Lord of the Admiralty; Her Excellency Lady Wodehouse; His Excellency the Lord Lieutenant; His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales; Equerries and Aides-de-Camp.

During the procession the orchestra will perform Meyerbeer's Grand March from the "Prophète." On his Royal Highness and their Excellencies' return to the dais, the opening chorus from Mendelssohn's "Hymn of Praise" will be given, and at its conclusion his Royal Highness will command Usher King of Arms to declare the Exhibition open. The declaration being made, it will be announced to the public by a flourish of trumpets, and by the firing of a Royal salute. After which will be sung Handel's "Grand Hallelujah

Chorus," to be followed by the National Anthem, which being concluded, his Royal Highness and their Excellencies will leave the building with the same ceremony as at their entrance, the orchestra playing the Danish national air.

It is expected that the Duke of Cambridge will be present at the opening, and in that case, of course, his place will be next to the Prince of Wales. At a meeting of the Dublin Corporation, on the 21st inst., the Lord Mayor expressed a wish in his official capacity that the public buildings of Dublin should be illuminated on the night of the Prince's arrival. Mr. Henry Russell has published, in a very neat and convenient form, the whole of the vocal music to be used at the inauguration ceremony. The chorus and band will include nearly 1000 performers, and the conductor will be Mr. Joseph Robinson. The musical portion of the programme is expected to be the most complete and splendid musical performance ever heard in Dublin.

### Foreign Intelligence.

#### FRANCE.

The Emperor Napoleon was to leave Paris for Algiers to-day (Saturday). He would proceed to Lyons, and there embark for Oran, whence he would travel by land to Algiers.

A short time ago it was understood to be a settled affair that M. Baroche was to be appointed to the post of President of the Corps Législatif. Now it appears that the position is to be filled by Count Walewski, who will consequently require to secure a seat in the Chamber.

#### ITALY.

It is reported that the Pope and Signor Vegezzi, who had been sent to Rome by the King of Italy to consult with his Holiness on the subject, have come to an arrangement with regard to the vacant bishoprics. The Pope admits the right of the King of Italy to appoint Bishops in the Piedmontese and Lombard provinces, and those already appointed in the Pope's former dominions are to be allowed to assume office without taking the oath of allegiance. Bishops exiled or imprisoned are allowed to return at their own pleasure. According to some reports, however, the conditions about the oath of allegiance relate solely to the future.

#### AUSTRIA AND PRUSSIA.

A telegram from Vienna states that the Emperor of Austria will shortly meet the King of Prussia at Carlsbad. The same telegram declares that all the rumours of differences existing between Prussia and Austria in reference to the Schleswig-Holstein question are wholly unfounded.

#### BRITISH NORTH AMERICA.

The confederation of the North American provinces is progressing favourably. Two members of the Canadian Ministry—Messrs. Galt and Cartier—while on their way to England as a deputation to the Home Government, were met at Halifax by the Nova Scotia Government and leading citizens of Halifax and New Brunswick. A torch-light procession a mile in length was formed to escort them to the Temperance Hall, where an immense concourse had assembled; and an address was presented by the Mayor of Halifax, on behalf of the citizens, strongly urging on the confederation scheme. The greatest enthusiasm prevailed, and most favourable statements were publicly made of the progress of the measure in both Nova Scotia and New Brunswick. Canada has already adopted it by a very large majority.

### THE CIVIL WAR IN AMERICA.

#### THE ASSASSINATION OF PRESIDENT LINCOLN AND MR. SEWARD.

THE last mail from New York, which left on the 15th inst., brings most startling intelligence. Mr. Lincoln had been murdered; Mr. Seward and two of his sons dangerously wounded, and a servant killed. The following despatch from Mr. Stanton to the American Minister in London gives the most complete and authentic account of the terrible tragedy:—

"Washington, April 15, 1865.

"Sir,—It has become my distressing duty to announce to you that last night, his Excellency Abraham Lincoln, President of the United States, was assassinated, about the hour of half-past ten o'clock, in his private box at Ford's Theatre, in the city. The President, about eight o'clock, accompanied Mrs. Lincoln to the theatre. Another lady and gentleman were with them in the box. About half-past ten, during a pause in the performance, the assassin entered the box, the door of which was unguarded, hastily approached the President from behind, and discharged a pistol at his head. The bullet entered the back of his head and penetrated nearly through. The assassin then leaped from the box upon the stage, brandishing a large knife or dagger, and exclaiming, 'Sic semper tyrannis!' and escaped in the rear of the theatre. Immediately upon the discharge, the President fell to the ground insensible, and continued in that state until twenty minutes past seven o'clock this morning, when he breathed his last. About the same time the murder was being committed at the theatre another assassin presented himself at the door of Mr. Seward's residence, gained admission by representing that he had a prescription from Mr. Seward's physician which he was directed to see administered, and hurried up to the third story chamber, where Mr. Seward was lying. He here discovered Mr. Frederick Seward, struck him over the head, inflicting several wounds, and fracturing the skull in two places, inflicting, it is feared, mortal wounds. He then rushed into the room where Mr. Seward was in bed, attended by a young daughter and a male nurse. The male attendant was stabbed through the lungs, and it is believed will die. The assassin then struck Mr. Seward with a knife or dagger twice in the throat and twice in the face, inflicting terrible wounds. By this time Major Seward, eldest son of the Secretary, and another attendant reached the room and rushed to the rescue of the Secretary; they were also wounded in the conflict, and the assassin escaped. No artery or important blood-vessel was severed by any of the wounds inflicted upon him, but he was for a long time insensible from the loss of blood. Some hope of his possible recovery is entertained. Immediately upon the death of the President notice was given to Vice-President Johnson, who happened to be in the city, and upon whom the office of President now devolves. He will take the office and assume the functions of President to-day. The murderer of the President has been discovered, and evidence obtained that these horrible crimes were committed in execution of a conspiracy deliberately planned and set on foot by rebels under pretence of avenging the South and aiding the rebel cause; but it is hoped that the immediate perpetrators will be caught. The feeling occasioned by these atrocious crimes is so great, sudden, and overwhelming that I cannot at present do more than communicate them to you. At the earliest moment yesterday the late President called a Cabinet meeting, at which General Grant was present. He was more cheerful and happy than I had ever seen him, rejoiced at the near prospect of firm and durable peace at home and abroad, manifested in a marked degree the kindness and humanity of his disposition and the tender and forgiving spirit that so eminently distinguished him. Public notice had been given that he and General Grant would be present at the theatre, and the opportunity of adding the Lieutenant-General to the number of victims to be murdered was no doubt seized for the fitting occasion of executing the plans that appear to have been in preparation for some weeks, but General Grant was compelled to be absent, and thus escaped the designs upon him. It is needless for me to say anything in regard to the influence which this atrocious murder of the President may exercise upon the affairs of this country; but I will only add that, horrible as are the atrocities that have been resorted to by the enemies of the country, they are not likely in any degree to impair the public spirit or postpone the complete and final overthrow of the rebellion. In profound grief for

the events which it has become my duty to communicate to you, I have the honour to be

"Very respectfully, your obedient servant,  
"EDWIN M. STANTON."

Mr. Stanton subsequently telegraphed as follows:—"Mr. Seward's throat is not cut, but his face is gashed. He saved himself by throwing himself out of bed. The surgeons report his condition unchanged, and that he is doing well. Mr. Frederick Seward's condition is critical. The assassins have not yet been apprehended."

It had been ascertained with reasonable certainty that two assassins were engaged in the horrible crime—Wilkes Booth being the one who shot the President, the name of his companion being unknown. His description, however, is so clear that he can hardly escape apprehension. From a letter found in Booth's trunk it appears that the murder was planned before the 4th of March, but fell through then because the accomplice backed out until Richmond could be heard from. Booth and his accomplice were at a lively stables at six p.m., and left their horses about ten p.m., or shortly before that hour. It would seem they had for several days been seeking their opportunity, but, from some unknown reason, the deed was not carried out until the night of the 14th inst. Wilkes Booth, the supposed assassin of President Lincoln, is the brother of Edwin Booth, an actor, and is said to be known as a rabid Secessionist. According to one report, he had been arrested, but this is contradicted. Mr. Frederick Seward was in a critical state. Booth is supposed to be the son of a certain Junius Brutus Booth, who was at one time an actor at Covent Garden and Drury Lane, ran a very extraordinary career, and had ultimately to fly to America, in consequence of committing a violent assault upon a brother actor. He was distinguished by alternate fits of despondency and exuberant gaiety; was always of a violent temper, which led him to commit an assault, in America, upon Wallack. In fact, he exhibited strong indications of insanity; and it is probable that his son is also mad.

The telegrams state that the assassination of Mr. Lincoln occurred so suddenly, and so little time had elapsed since the event, that it was impossible to judge of the effect upon the public mind or upon commercial affairs. A general feeling of horror pervaded the community. The whole of New York was draped in black, and there was general mourning throughout the country.

Vice-President Johnson was sworn in as President by Chief Justice Chase at eleven o'clock on the morning of the 15th, Secretary McCulloch, Attorney-General Speed, and others were present. Johnson said, "The duties are at present mine. I shall perform them. The consequences are with God. Gentlemen, I shall lean upon you. I feel I shall need your support. I am deeply impressed with the solemnity of the occasion and the responsibility of the duties of the office I am assuming." Johnson appeared remarkably well, and his manner created a very favourable impression. Mr. William Hunter had been appointed Acting Secretary of State during Mr. Seward's illness. President Johnson had announced that he would make no changes in the Cabinet.

#### SURRENDER OF GENERAL LEE.

General Lee surrendered the army of Northern Virginia to General Grant on the 9th inst. The following is the correspondence between the two Generals settling the terms:—

General Grant to General Lee. April 7.

General.—The result of the last week must convince you of the hopelessness of further resistance on the part of the army of Northern Virginia in this struggle. I feel that it is so, and regard it as my duty to shift from myself the responsibility of any further effusion of blood by asking of you the surrender of that portion of the Confederate States army known as the army of Northern Virginia.

U. S. GRANT, Lieutenant-General Commanding the Armies of the United States.

General Lee to General Grant. April 7.

General.—I have received your note of this date. Though not entirely of the opinion you express of the hopelessness of further resistance on the part of the army of Northern Virginia, I reciprocate your desire to avoid useless effusion of blood; and therefore, before considering your proposition, ask the terms you will offer on condition of its surrender.

R. E. LEE, General.

General Grant to General Lee. April 8.

General.—Your note of last evening, in reply to mine of same date, asking the conditions on which I will accept the surrender of the army of Northern Virginia, is just received. In reply, I would say that, peace being my first desire, there is but one condition that I must insist upon—viz., that the men surrendering shall be disqualified from taking up arms against the Government of the United States until properly exchanged. I will meet you, or designate officers to meet any officers you may name, for the same purpose at any point agreeable to you for the purpose of arranging definitely the terms on which the surrender of the army of Northern Virginia will be received.

U. S. GRANT.

General Lee to General Grant. April 8.

General.—I received at a late hour your note of to-day, in answer to mine of yesterday. I did not intend to propose the surrender of the army of Northern Virginia, but to ask the terms of your proposition. To be frank, I do not think the emergency has arisen to call for the surrender; but, as the restoration of peace should be the sole object of all, I desire to know whether your proposal would tend to that, and I cannot, therefore, meet you with a view to surrender the army of Northern Virginia; but, as far as your proposition may affect the Confederate States forces under my command and lead to the restoration of peace, I should be pleased to meet you at ten a.m. tomorrow on the old stage-road to Richmond, between the picket line of the two armies.

R. E. LEE.

General Grant to General Lee. April 9.

General.—Your note of yesterday is received. As I have no authority to treat on the subject of peace, the meeting proposed for ten a.m. to-day could lead to no good. I will state, however, General, that I am really anxious for peace with yourself, and the whole North entertain the same feeling. The terms upon which peace can be had are well understood. By the South laying down their arms they will hasten that most desirable event, save thousands of human lives and hundreds of millions of property not yet destroyed. Sincerely hoping that all our difficulties may be settled without the loss of another life, I subscribe myself,

U. S. GRANT.

General Lee to General Grant. April 9.

General.—I received your note this morning on the picket line, whither I had come to meet you, and ascertain definitely what terms were embraced in your proposition of yesterday with reference to the surrender of this army. I now request an interview, in accordance with the offer contained in your letter of yesterday for that purpose.

R. E. LEE.

General Grant to General Lee. April 9.

General R. E. Lee, Commanding Confederate States Armies.—Your note of this day is but this moment, 11.50 a.m., received, in consequence of my having passed from the Richmond and Lynchburg road to the Farmville and Lynchburg road, and am at this writing about four miles off Watter's Church, and will push forward to the front for the purpose of meeting you. Notice sent to me on the road where you wish the interview to take place will meet me.

U. S. GRANT.

#### The Terms.

Appomattox Courthouse, April 9. General R. E. Lee, Commanding Confederate States Armies.—In accordance with the substance of my letter to you of the 8th inst., I propose to receive the surrender of the army of Northern Virginia on the following terms:—Together with rolls of all the officers and men, to be made in duplicate, one copy to be given to an officer designated by me, the other to be retained by such officers as you may designate, the officers to give their individual paroles not to take arms against the United States until properly exchanged, and each company or regimental commander to sign a like parole for the men of their commands. The arms, artillery, and public property to be packed and stacked, and turned over to the officers appointed by me to receive them. This will not embrace the side-arms of the officers, nor their private horses or baggage. This done, each officer and man will be allowed to return to their homes, not to be disturbed by United States authority so long as they observe their parole and the laws in force where they may reside.

U. S. GRANT.

General Lee to General Grant. April 9.

General.—I have received your letter of this day containing the terms of surrender of the army of Northern Virginia, as proposed by you. As they are substantially the same as those expressed in your letter of the 8th inst., they are accepted. I will proceed to designate the proper officers to carry the stipulations into effect.

R. E. LEE, General.

Secretary Stanton has ordered a salute of 200 guns to be fired from every arsenal, fort, and military headquarters in the United States in celebration of the event.

The army surrendered by General Lee numbered about 25,000 men.

#### GENERAL LEE'S POSITION.

The New York correspondent of the *Standard* thus describes General Lee's position previous to the surrender of his army:—



General Lee, we have his word for it, could have continued the fight for a considerable time; and there is a bare possibility that he might have saved a respectable portion of his army. But it was only a bare possibility. After much hard fighting, and sacrificing his rearguard in the endeavour, he succeeded in clearing Grant's northern flank and placing himself on the Lynchburg-road. But by so doing he encountered a new peril, which neither the dictates of humanity nor the promptings of military prudence would permit him to attack. On the north, Hancock, with 25,000 men, was hastening down the Shenandoah, Meade and Ord, with the army of the Potomac and a portion of the army of the James, were between him and the Carolinas. From the west, Thomas and Stoneman, with an enormous force of cavalry and infantry, were pushing on towards Lynchburg over the Virginia and Tennessee Railroad. In the east was Grant, with an army double that of his own in number. These armies were constantly converging upon the little, shattered band that had fought ten successive days with overwhelming numbers of adversaries; that had lost a dozen of its best generals; that had abandoned nearly all its artillery and stores. The remnants of Lee's army were in an impoverished country; they had scarcely a day's rations left; the men were disheartened; they had evacuated the capital of their country; they had been incessantly harassed for nearly a fortnight. They could, perhaps, have reached Lynchburg; but, had they shut themselves up in the city, although they might have resisted a long siege, their final surrender would have been only a question of time. To have retreated to Lynchburg would have given the Federals opportunity to make a complete circumvallation of the place, while to retreat to Danville, under the circumstances, was next to impossible, if not quite out of the question. General Lee could have made another fight; he could have inflicted great damage upon his enemy; he could have sacrificed his whole army, if necessary—and that army would have cheerfully obeyed his commands, whatever they might have been; but his humanity would not permit him to devote his gallant companions, his tried and trusted friends, to useless death. He opened negotiations with General Grant, secured such terms as a brave officer in such circumstances should be permitted to have—such terms as would save the military pride of his soldiers—and surrendered.

#### FEELING IN THE NORTH.—GENERAL BUTLER'S SPEECH.

On the reception of the news of Lee's surrender, great satisfaction was expressed in New York, Washington, and other places. Most people seemed disposed to support a policy of conciliation and mercy towards the vanquished South, and the prospect of peace was hailed with the most lively satisfaction. Mr. Davis was the only person against whom rancorous feeling seemed to be entertained by respectable people generally, although General Butler had made himself conspicuous as the advocate of a rigorous policy. In a speech delivered on the occasion he said:—

New vital and controlling questions, to be settled in the immediate future, arise and mingle perforce with our joy. There are four classes of men in the rebellious States. What shall be done with them? What shall be done with the men educated in the Military Academy at the public expense, sworn to protect our flag—obtaining livelihood, honour, and promotion under it—the children of the nation, who, without justification, excuse, or palliation even, betrayed their country, forfeited their honour, struck down their flag, used the very knowledge obtained at the nation's school to break down the Government which nurtured them and the nation which honoured them, and have now ceased an unholy strife, which has cost millions of money and hundreds of thousands of lives, because they have been beaten, conquered, and subdued by the valour of our soldiers, whose comrades they have starved in loathsome prisons? (Cheers, and cries of "Hang every one of them! Hang them! Give them the rope!") In the future the danger to our liberties can come only from the ambition of those in the army who may conspire again against the life of the nation. Shall we not by example teach every officer who deserts his flag that he shall suffer the same penalty for desertion which the Government and the law has enforced upon so many of our soldiers for the same crime? What shall be done with those whom the people, North and South, once delighted to honour, who, with the oath of God upon their lips and treason in their souls, sat in yonder Capitol, in the seats of lawgivers, day by day, and plotted how to destroy their country—even while, in the name of the Constitution, they claim to sacrifice at the altar of her most cherished liberties? Shall they ever again have the power, or place, or vote to destroy their country? ("No, no; never, never!") Shall they ever again be allowed to have the loved, and honoured, and glorious privileges—now made sacred by the blood of hero patriots shed to save them from acts of such men—that of American citizens? ("No, never! Traitors, hang them!") Then we are agreed: condign punishment to the military traitor who deserts his flag for rebellion; disfranchisement and safe keeping for the civilian using his perjured place to betray his country; the right hand of fellowship for the misguided and deceived victims of the rebellion; and equal rights for the black man under the law.

#### GENERAL NEWS.

Reports of General Lee's movements are contradictory; one states that he has gone to consult with General Johnston; another that he is en route for Weldon, North Carolina; while a third declares that he is adjusting his affairs at Richmond, preparatory to an immediate departure with his family for Europe. The New York Tribune's correspondent with the Potomac army writes that the army of Northern Virginia, at the time negotiations for its surrender were pending, was estimated to number upwards of 80,000 men, but that the prisoners actually on parole will not exceed 8000; the remainder, he states, on the authority of Confederates, upon learning that their surrender was meditated, immediately left the ranks, most of them with the determination to join General Johnston in North Carolina.

The leading citizens of Richmond and many members of the Confederate Legislature of Virginia, on the 11th, with the concurrence of General Weitzel, summoned a meeting to consider what steps could be taken to restore peace to the State. Upon the project being made known to Mr. Stanton, he prohibited the meeting and removed General Weitzel from command.

General Sherman moved in three columns from Goldsborough on the 9th inst. Johnston evacuated Raleigh and moved west of the town, leaving it in possession of Hampton's cavalry. Johnston is reported to have gone to Greensborough.

Mobile papers of the 4th inst. report the capture of Selma, Alabama, with twenty-three guns, and a large amount of property. The Federals opened a furious fire on the defences of Mobile on the 4th, exploding a magazine in Spanish Fort. The amount of damage done is unknown. The siege continues. Two tin-clad gun-boats have been destroyed by torpedoes.

President Davis issued a proclamation, dated Danville, April 6, announcing his purpose to continue the war and never submit to the abandonment of one State of the Confederacy. The proclamation was issued some days before Lee's surrender.

Lynchburg, so long the objective point of Federal armies, had surrendered to a Federal scouting party. General Wilson was reported to have taken Forrest, Roddy, and their commands prisoners in Alabama. General Palmer was receiving the submission of Confederate guerrillas in Kentucky.

Two important notices had been issued by President Lincoln. By one he closes all the Southern ports, save Key West, for trade. By the other he requires that foreign nations shall now treat Federal ships of war as if no war existed. In other words, he asks that the recognition of the Confederates as belligerents should be withdrawn.

#### THE PASSAGE OVER MONT CENIS.

WE have already given some account of the progress of the tunnelling of Mont Cenis, and the success which has lately attended the scheme for abolishing the barrier between France and Italy. For four or five months in the year Italy has been virtually cut off from direct land communication with the rest of Europe; but it will be so no longer when the Cottian Alp is pierced through.

Until this is effected, however, it was believed that the passage of the mountain would have to be made by the old road and the system which is represented in our Engraving, but during the last few weeks it has been determined that this shall be altogether superseded by a temporary railway over the mountain, which will, it is believed, reduce the time of the journey to four hours. The plan, in fact, has been for some time in course of realisation under the auspices of some leading engineers and contractors, with the concurrence of the French and Italian Governments, for making the postal road over the mountain practicable for a system of hydraulic railway.

The journey by the present route over Mont Cenis may be said to commence at Saint-Michele-de-Maurienne, at which place the Franco-Italian Railway now terminates, and where the diligence, which for a brief space holds its own, is shortly to be superseded and to be added to that curious collection of defunct conveyances of which the sedan chair is another striking example. There it is, however, complete in all its compartments, from the aristocratic

coupé to the close and stuffy interior, where the middle-class travellers choke and jolt in mutual misery; and the rotonde, where nurses chatter and chirrup in concert with their fractious charges. The wonderful combination of cheapness, combined with the nastiness with which cheapness is generally associated, is as unchanged as are the postilion or the conductor—individuals who are obviously immortal, or, at all events, have retained their individuality ever since the time when all France was furrowed by the wheels of those carriages which bore the names of Caillard and Laffitte. It is to their care that the traveller must consign himself before he can traverse the seventy kilometers which separate him from Suze, where he will exchange for the railway to Turin.

To perform this journey there are, ever since the advent of railways, which bring so large an influx of passengers, forty diligences, thirty passenger-sledges, and thirty first-class carriages, called "extra posts," for those who wish to cross at a time to suit their own private convenience. In addition to these, all of which carry some baggage, there are provided six immense fourgons, sixty slowly-moving sledges, and 115 two-wheeled carriages, for the transport of heavy luggage. For the entire service 800 horses or mules and 200 men are employed in order to accomplish one of the most difficult carriage journeys in Europe.

The start of the diligence is an event of no little importance—the packing of the luggage, the harnessing of the six or even eight horses, and the settlement of the passengers, being an arduous undertaking; but when once the ponderous conveyance begins to roll there is little to be done except to listen to the wild exclamations of the driver and to keep your bones together until you reach the end of the first stage at Fresnoye, a little village where the road passes through a narrow gorge, or rather a gully, with a stream running at the bottom. Still further on one comes to Modane, a considerably more lively place than any of the other stations; and at a little distance from here, on the right, may be seen the establishments for the present tunnelling operations on the French side—a complete town, with engines for monuments and mechanical trophies for public buildings. Here the valley extends to a greater breadth, and the torrent rolls at a very great depth; and the cascade of St. Benoit, frozen in its escape from the rock, prepares the traveller for the region of that wintry landscape still lying before him as he starts from the little chapel which, according to the local tradition, marks the place where Charles the Bald was assassinated. The second relay is at Verley, a place where a few houses only are seen, but where a church, plain enough in external architecture but gorgeous with internal decoration, is indicative of the approach to Italy; beyond this the passage of the valley is almost closed by the bastions and military works of the fortress of Essellom, of which all the means of defence are directed towards France; although, in its present condition, it is doubtful whether the place would be of much use in case of aggression, and the soldiers of the garrison, unless they are contented with the extended prospect, must have a very weary and monotonous life, shut up within the rugged walls.

Termignon, with its one interminable street, leads to a steep road, from which the view extends over a magnificent pine forest; but the acceleration of pace gives the traveller enough to do to hold on that he may not be jerked against his companions. During the recent snowstorms it became necessary to send men to clear the roads all the way from San Michele, and many of the travellers who had made but a rough and cold journey were glad to see the clock-tower of Lans-le-Bourg, where they would at least pass a night of rest before continuing the journey by means of the sledge, and covered with all the furs and wraps with which they could hope to keep out the cold.

It is, indeed, at Lans-le-Bourg that the real ascent of the mountain may be said to commence; and the diligence, with all its heavy appurtenances—jolting wheels and high imperial—is exchanged for the low sledge running on skates. Hitherto, the journey, although often on steep roads, was of an ordinary character, and, after a good deal of difficulty in getting up a hill, there would be a space of smooth plateau where the horses could be urged to a fair pace. Now, however, the real ascent begins, and the fourteen kilometers which separate the travellers from the summit must be performed in sledges drawn by mules harnessed to the front of the vehicle by a broad yoke. The long file of mules and horses once on the move, the sledges go easily over the frozen snow, and the party slides away in the mist, through which they see the vague outlines of fir-trees and the bare boughs of the stripped larches, the ordinary barriers of the road having been buried in the heavy fall of snow.

At every angle of the great zigzag road which has been formed for this upward voyage is raised a house of refuge, intended to serve as a shelter for travellers who have come to grief as well as a lodging for some of the numerous road-clearers employed during the winter months, who are expected to be able to furnish food and drink to those who require refreshment. Here and there, too, stand pyramids of stones, surmounted with tall masts, which serve as landmarks for those who are in danger of missing their way when the storms are out upon this mountain road.

In approaching the summit the fog and mist often disappear as by enchantment, and are replaced by a rosy light which, shining on the glittering snow, announces the end of the bad weather; then the sun bursts out like a great globe of fire above the surrounding summits, and the halt of the long line of mules and horses denote the arrival of the voyageurs at the highest point of their journey. Then comes the most exciting part of the affair; the mules are unharnessed, and, with only a single horse between the shaft of each vehicle, the descent is made with a rapidity which serves, in some sort, to restore the circulation of the blood.

In the summer season the views of the depression of the mountain and the beautiful lake of Mont Cenis are peculiarly charming; but in the winter passage the whole country, as well as the lake itself, lies under a mantle of snow, relieved only by dark projections of rock here and there. In the descent the sledges pass the Hospice of Mont Cenis, which consists of a long line of buildings, having a chapel in the centre. This place, having been originally intended to serve as a military fortress, has on the Italian side a castellated wall; but its present use is of a more pacific character, since it is partly devoted to the stables of the Messageries Impériales, by which we have been travelling, and partly to the accommodation of those ecclesiastics whose duty it is to receive and shelter any unfortunate wayfarers who may claim their hospitality during the journey across the mountain.

There is sufficient indication that we are now on the Italian side in the legend written on the walls, "Reggia casa di ricovero," and in the extreme declivity of the slopes towards the plains of Piedmont. After having passed through Grande Croix, a hamlet composed only of a few houses, the journey is resumed by the "Echelles," those primitive roads which are still an evidence of the pains and labour by which the passage of the mountain was rendered possible to ordinary travellers. Seven or eight of these long straight causeways meet at points whence, by an abrupt angle, the ascent or descent may be continued. These roads are protected on their precipitous side by great granite posts bearing beams of timber, a provision not altogether unnecessary when it is considered at what a pace the vehicles go over the frozen ground, a speed which it is sometimes necessary to check by drawing behind them a smaller

sledge laden with stones or furnished with a pair of cramp irons by way of a drag. Another relay waits at Bart, whence may be seen the gorges of the Novalesse; and the route continues by the descent towards Suze, of which may be seen the clock-towers and that fertile valley which carries to the Po the tributaries of the chain of Mont Cenis, Ceniza, and Doria. At Molaret both horses and carriages are changed, and, as the snow has disappeared, the diligence is again in requisition for the journey to Suze, which is reached rapidly by means of a pair of horses.

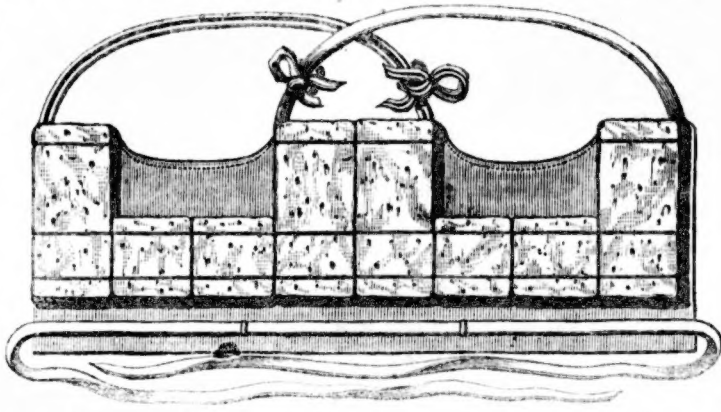
The road to Suze lies between magnificent thickets of horse-chestnuts, walnut trees, and larch, while the distant view extends over the valley as far as San Ambrosio, one of the burial places of the ancient Kings of Piedmont, situated on a steep hill. Passing the pretty village of Giaglione, the rock may be just distinguished on which stands the old fort of Brunetta, and the travellers enter Suze leaving on their right an antique triumphal arch, which it may be hoped will be preserved during all those alterations which are to make a memory of the past of the journey over Mont Cenis.

#### LIFE-BELTS FOR SHIPWRECKED SAILORS.

THE committee of the Royal National Life-boat Institution have for several years been painfully impressed by the fact that, notwithstanding all the efforts made to rescue shipwrecked seamen, by means of the numerous life-boats and rocket and mortar establishments which now happily surround our coasts, there are yet large numbers of sailors, amounting to several hundreds annually, who miserably perish on our shores.

After a full consideration of the subject, and taking for their data the results of accidents to life-boats the crews of which have been provided with efficient life-belts, and of others which have not been so, the committee have come to the conclusion that a large number of the unfortunate men who are thus every year lost to their friends and their country might be saved if they were invariably supplied with really efficient life-belts.

With a view to bring about so desirable an end the committee of the National Life-boat Institution have, in the first place, caused to be prepared, under the superintendence of their inspector of life-boats, Captain J. R. Ward, R.N., an efficient cork life-belt, of so simple and inexpensive a character that its costliness, at all events, should be no barrier to its universal supply to our merchant seamen. Secondly—They have decided to make an appeal to the owners of all merchant vessels, but especially of those in the home and



VIEW OF LIFE-BELT, WITH THE SHOULDER-STRINGS TIED AS WORN.



LIFE BELT AS WORN, FRONT AND BACK VIEW.

coasting trade, on behalf of the seamen who work their craft, and whose lives are risked in their service, and to implore them to provide their servants with this important means of safety. Thirdly—The committee have determined to undertake, at least for a time, the supply of lifebelts of the description above referred to, at cost price, with a view to bring about their general use on board our merchant-ships. This cork life-belt of the institution is confined sufficiently close and secure round the body without so pressing over the chest and ribs as to materially affect the free action of the lungs or impeding the muscular movement of the chest and arms, and thereby diminishing the power of endurance of fatigue.

It is proposed to supply these belts, in chests, containing the requisite number for every size of vessel, through the custom-houses and shipping-offices at the principal ports, and to which sample chests will be at once forwarded. The cost of each belt will be 4s., and the average cost of the chest to contain them will be 10s.

A popular writer lately commenced a tale by asking the question, "Is a man's life worth 10s. 6d.?" In now appealing to the owners of ships and employers of seamen, the committee would ask the question, "Is a man's life worth 4s.?" There can, of course, be but one reply to such a question.

Let any shipowner should, without reference to amount of cost, think that it is not his duty to provide his men with such a means of safety, it is suggested that, whilst he should provide, in the first instance, the chest of belts as a part of the ship's furniture, he should require his master and crew to pay 6d. each annually, or 1d. each on short voyages, in consideration of being thus provided for, which amount would be a good interest on the sum thus invested; and it is thought that it would rarely happen that men would decline to insure their lives at so trifling a cost.

It had, at first, occurred to the committee that the Life-boat Institution might undertake the gratuitous supply of life-belts to the crews of merchant-vessels; but, on further consideration, the magnitude of the undertaking appeared so great as to be likely to interfere with the present ample sphere of its operations on the coasts of the United Kingdom. It is hoped, however, that those immediately interested in the movement—namely, the owners of ships and fishing-vessels, and the crews themselves—will so readily undertake its direction that there will be no need for the more direct action of the society.

We may add that applications for chests of belts may be forwarded to the secretary of the National Life-boat Institution, John-street, Adelphi, London; and to the collectors of customs and shipping-masters at the different ports of the United Kingdom.



### INNER LIFE OF A PUBLIC OFFICE.

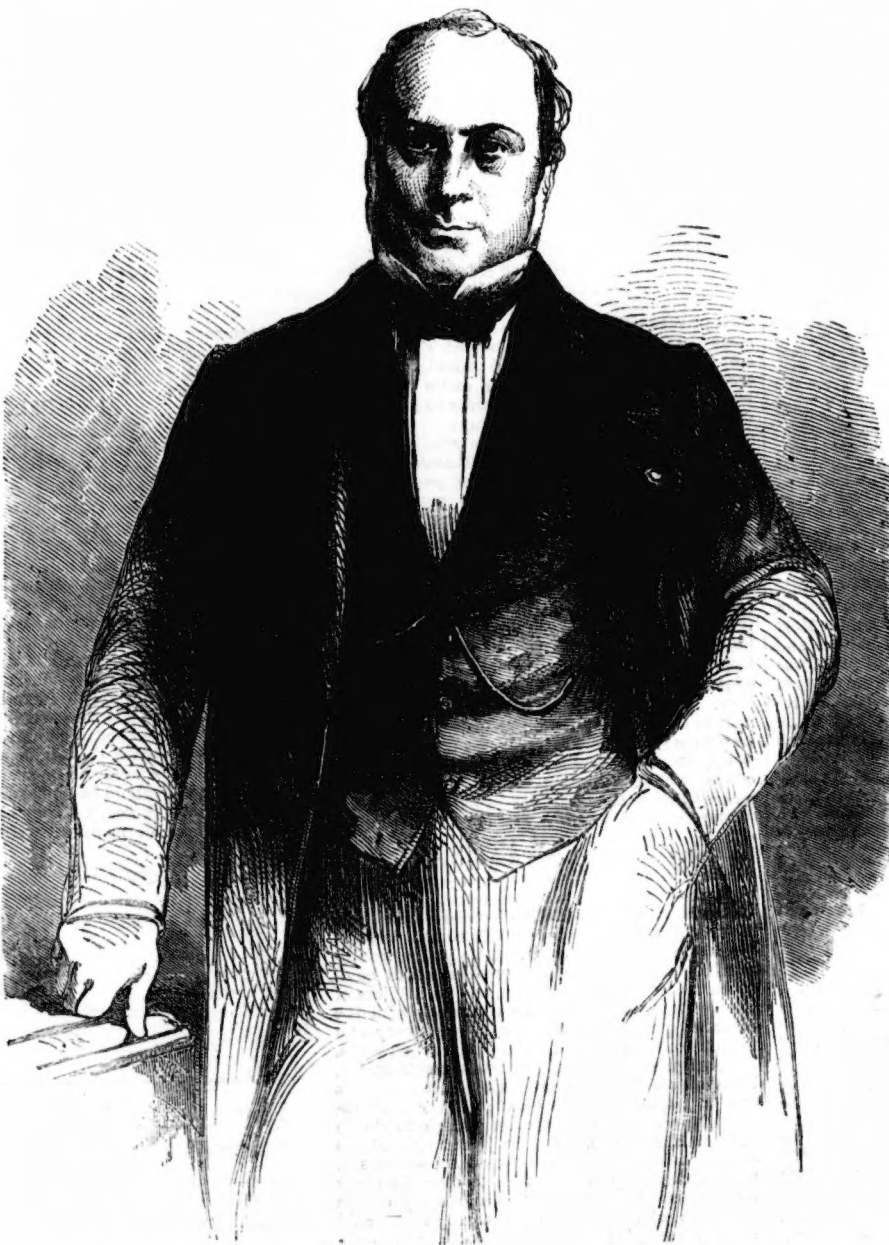
THE official report laid before Parliament on the Patent Office gives a curious view of the way in which the business of an important public department may even in these days be conducted. Suppose it the close of a busy morning, when, perhaps, at the Patent Office £400 may have been received, chiefly in prepayment for stamps to be obtained for patents. Mr. Edmunds, the clerk, is not in attendance; he has engaged one Mr. Thomas Ruscoe as his clerk or deputy. Mr. Ruscoe, it may be presumed, will carry the day's receipts to one of the great banks in the neighbourhood. Nothing of the sort; he takes the money over to the law stationers who do all the work of the Patent Office. His uncle is one of the partners in that business, and the money will be entered by him in an account he keeps, headed "Tom's account." This was the course of business at the Patent Office. As stamps for patents were required from time to time, the uncle, the law stationer, obtained them, and paid himself by debiting "Tom's account." So, also, for Mr. Edmunds's share of the discount allowed at the Stamp Office on large purchases of stamps—a profit or saving which belonged to the Government, but which, in fact, without the knowledge of the Commissioners of Patents, was divided in certain proportions between Mr. Edmunds and his clerk—the law stationer would give Mr. Edmunds's checks, debited to "Tom's account," £313 one year, £306 another, and so on. How Mr. "Tom" got his share of the discount paid to him not being so clear, the Commissioners appointed to investigate the affair set about attempting to trace it, and stumbled upon the discovery that he did not always pay over to his uncle the full sum received over the counter in the day. Sometimes £5 would be kept back, sometimes £10, and sometimes more considerable sums. He did his work diligently, and in the earlier part of his career was wretchedly paid. He was Mr. Edmunds's clerk, and it was an object to find some means (before he got an official salary) of paying him out of the public purse. The following statement in the official report is rich:—

The Stamp Act of 1849 took away a material source of Mr. Ruscoe's emolument, and he has informed us that Mr. Edmunds authorised him to deduct annually out of the money payable to the Exchequer on account of fees such sums as would be an equivalent for the annual amount which he lost by this abolition of discounts. And Mr. Ruscoe alleged that Mr. Edmunds justified himself in giving such an authority on the ground that, as the Government had allowed so absurd an Act to pass, and had therefore themselves obtained the discounts on the stamps, it was only proper that an equivalent should be taken out of the fees payable to the Exchequer; and for this purpose Mr. Ruscoe informed us that Mr. Edmunds gave him authority to take from the public receipts and appropriate to his private use a sum varying from about £40 to £45 every year."

Another expedient was resorted to. There was a fee payable to the Consolidated Fund upon every patent and other instrument prepared in the Patent Office and upon every skin of parchment used for it; and from the beginning of 1845 12s. 10d. was taken by Mr. Ruscoe from this fee per skin. The Commissioners state that they have inquired for the authority for this abstraction, but have not been furnished with any. Mr. Ruscoe stated to the Commissioners, in the presence, and with the apparent assent of, Mr. Edmunds, that the deduction was made with the sanction of the latter. The abstraction of this sum from the fees payable into the Exchequer went to the extent, in all, of £3033. But it is hardly necessary to grope about for "authority" or excuse when we find Mr. Edmunds, in his letter to the Lord Chancellor on the charges made, writing as follows. Referring to his having drawn large sums from his "Patent-office account" at Coutts's, and applied them to his private use, Mr. Edmunds says:—

"I might add that there are few trustees, whether acting as bankers, solicitors, or simple trustees (I am sure your Lordship's experience will bear me out in this), who have not occasionally, with perfect innocence, and while perfectly solvent, made transfers from their trust account to their private account."

The two Queen's Counsel, Mr. Hindmarch and Mr. Greenwood who were instructed by the Lord Chancellor and the Commissioners



MARQUIS DE LAVALETTE, THE NEW FRENCH MINISTER OF THE INTERIOR.

of Patents to inquire into the whole matter, say in their report from which the foregoing statements are taken, that they are not in a position to state precisely how much of the money withheld from the Exchequer was taken by Mr. Edmunds, and how much by Mr. Ruscoe; but vastly the larger sum has been taken by Mr. Edmunds, and they are satisfied that he is responsible for £17,490, withheld from the public purse in the course of the last twenty years; £7872 he refunded in September last, leaving a deficiency of £9618. Mr. Edmunds denies this; but he has refused to attend the later meetings of the commissioners, alleging that they are prejudiced. The way in which he speaks of the affair in his letters of defence to the Lord Chancellor is remarkable. He says he always looked forward to an investigation of his official receipts and payments on his resignation, and to the discharge of what might appear to be "coming from him," and that his "omissions" must inevitably have been discovered, if not previously made good, on the first payment of fees by his successor; but that he never in any one year "borrowed" more than £400. At the close of his last letter he states that a large part of the deficiency is to be placed to the account of losses readily to be understood, considering the voluminous character of the accounts of thirty-one years, and considering that

graveyards of their quiet inhabitants. It is almost impossible to estimate in money the losses which have been sustained.

The Susquehanna, in its sudden rise, tore away hundreds of miles of the Erie Railroad, swept off valuable railroad bridges, submerged a good portion of the city of Harrisburg, and carried away vast quantities of lumber stored along its banks. Its tributaries—the Chemung, Chenango, and Juniata, in Western New York and Pennsylvania—carried a like destruction in their path. Two thirds of Elmira, on the Chemung, were under water, and the furniture and people had to be removed in boats. The Genesee River rose at one time at the rate of a foot an hour, and the central and business portion of Rochester, on the west side of the river, was completely inundated. The Erie Canal overflowed. The flood swept through the streets. The following description is given by a Rochester journal:—"At least nine tenths of the streets in the First Ward were under water, and many in the Second and other wards. On Main-street thousands stood looking over the flood upon Buffalo-street. And on Buffalo-street, west of Washington-street, a vast crowd stood looking eastward over a third of a mile of water, the eastern part of which was surging and boiling as if thrown up by some mighty engine below. On Exchange-street,

"the accounts have never in any year been required by or rendered to the Treasury, or have had the common advantage of an audit by the Commissioners of Audit, or any other authority." He is fighting the battle of the public, and showing the need of a strict audit.

### THE MARQUIS DE LAVALETTE.

WE publish this week a Portrait of his Excellency the Marquis de Lavalette, the French Minister of the Interior, who has just received his portfolio. The Marquis has been Ambassador at Constantinople and at Rome, and is regarded as one of the ablest statesmen, in France, of Liberal tendencies. An intimate friend of the late Duke de Morny, it is said that the policy and general public demeanour of M. de Lavalette have been greatly regulated by the example of the late President of the Corps Législatif; and, although he may be considered a new man in the political world of Paris, his diplomatic experiences, and his not having been especially identified with this or that party, are believed to be so many recommendations to the high office he has been called upon to fulfil. M. de Lavalette was born, at Semlis, on the 25th of November, 1806; and, having entered the diplomatic service in the reign of Louis Philippe, was sent as Secretary of the Embassy to Stockholm in 1837; as Consul-General to Alexandria in 1841, and as Minister Plenipotentiary to Hesse-Cassel and Deputy for the College of Bergerac (Dordogne) in 1846.

Having retired from office in 1848, he was nominated as Envoy Extraordinary to Constantinople in 1851, and was appointed Ambassador to the same place in the following year; a position the difficult duties of which he discharged until the time when, believing that his opinions with regard to the interminable disputes about the occupation of the holy places prevented him from exercising that influence which might lead to an amicable settlement of the question, he desired to be recalled to France, and was replaced, in February, 1853, by M. de la Cour.

On the 23rd of June, in the same year, he was raised to the dignity of a Senator. He was, however, again called upon to undertake delicate diplomatic negotiations in the East in May, 1860, after which he received the cross of the Legion of Honour; and in the following year was nominated to the scarcely less difficult post of Ambassador at Rome, where he remained until the assumption of the conduct of Foreign Affairs by M. Drouyn de Lhuys.

### THE LATE FLOODS IN AMERICA.

THE spring "freshets" in America have this year caused an immense amount of damage. Owing to the unprecedented fall of snow during the winter, the freshets throughout the country have been greater than for a generation past, and have been very disastrous. The Hudson, the Mohawk, the Connecticut, the Susquehanna, and all the great rivers were swollen with the flood to an almost incredible volume, which overflowed the land, and carried away houses, and destroyed factories, and even robbed



THE RECENT FLOODS IN AMERICA: SCENE AT ANDREW-STREET BRIDGE, ROCHESTER, NEW YORK.



## "AN EASTER OFFERING."

MANY of our readers may remember the painting from which our Engraving is taken as one of those homely subjects which excited so much attention from visitors to the gallery of the Great Exhibition.

It is true that our "Easter offerings" in London parishes are generally made under the superintendence of the beadle and other Church dignitaries who favour us with a call at this period of the year and appeal bluffly to our religious and charitable sentiments, not without a prodigious display of gold-lace, crimson waistcoat, and white neckcloth; but, at all events, offerings of this kind, which are good at all times, have a peculiar appropriateness during the great Christian festivals at Easter and Christmas tides. Both these seasons are observed throughout Europe by special ceremonies; and Easter especially is celebrated by observances, the origin of many of which is almost lost in antiquity, or by reason of that wonderful

ceremony was the great event of the year; and the numerous characters included not only Herod and Pontius Pilate, but also Adam and Eve and some of the patriarchs. In Southern Italy, the day before Easter is celebrated by a procession of penitents, some of whom are masked and covered by a long robe, something like a *Sau benito*, and bearing on their heads crowns of thorns. On the dawn of Easter Day this penitential ceremony is succeeded by rejoicing, and the great holiday of the Church begins.

It is at St. Peter's, however, that Easter is observed with the most gorgeous ceremonies; when from every cornice and carving of that vast dome jets of flame, starting from tapers—themselves so far off as to be almost invisible—rise in ever-diminishing rings to the very summit; when the whole of that stupendous area is ablaze with myriads of lights; when the censers begin to swing their incense into the laden air; and the priests, clad in their

gorgeous robes, salute the Pope, who, from his balcony, in the midst of peacock-fans and the gold and flashing jewels of his state, bows to the glories of the altar, and pronounces his benediction on the breathless, swaying crowd that fills the enormous space beneath. Then the organ peals forth, the air grows still heavier with frankincense, and the Easter Hymn, swelling into a great burst of melody, tells that the holiday of Rome has begun.

More simple and of a ruder sort were many of the old customs, some of which still survive in this country, but they were often illustrative of that genial spirit and goodwill which properly belong to such seasons. The distribution of the "pasche egg" is still observed in Lancashire and in some parts of Scotland, where, as in Italy, the eggs intended as presents are dyed of various colours. A less pleasant custom is that of lifting or heaving, a process which consists of two persons joining hands and giving a "dandy chair" to any wayfarer they may chance to meet in the streets on Easter Monday. Then there was playing at ball in the churches for tansy cakes, and the mutual presentation of such articles of pastry as were most esteemed in the various districts where the old customs were preserved. In all these cases, however, the offerings to the clergy and to the poor accompanied the Easter revels, and it may at least be hoped that this part of the proceedings may continue unaltered by the demands of civilization and refinement. In Germany both Eastertide and Christmas bring with them special festivities of a quiet, domestic sort, in which the children bear the largest part, and it is at these seasons that the pleasant, child-like side of the German character is especially exhibited. The children's songs, the children's gifts, the marvellous presents found at early mornings deposited in shoes and under pillows, the simple domestic festivity which is so charming an element in the German household, have their most prominent

recognition at these periods; and grave men and women give themselves up for a time to a sort of second child hood, which is unspeakably pleasant and unaffected.

In many of those dim, queer little churches in the streets of thriving towns, or perched on the hillsides of humdrum villages, the chubby little faces under prim white caps make the old carved oak doorways into frames for pleasant pictures, and great is the clatter of little feet, the plump legs belonging to which are clad in blue-knitted stockings, as the tiny fair-haired maidens come out from morning service and go with their apple-cheeked brothers and sisters to drop their offering into the great box which they can only reach on tiptoe. Of a very quiet, happy, enjoyable sort are the merry-makings that follow, in which everyone joins with the unanimity that approaches nearer to, at least, a temporary equality and fellowship than can be secured by more ostentatious and less primitive attempts to display a holiday spirit.

To those who have been lucky enough to join in these simple pleasures the picture we have reproduced will recall some of those little companions for whose sake the mirth and charity of Eastertide should be treated as institutions not lightly to be disregarded.



"THE EASTER OFFERING."—(FROM A PICTURE BY BOSER.)

discretion which led the early Fathers to substitute Christian for pagan rites during the observance of the people's festivals, so that ordinary amusements might become subservient to the requirements of religious duty.

So obscure have many of these customs become, that even the eating of hot-cross buns on Good Friday (the most commonly celebrated anniversary in Europe) has been thought to be a remnant of the pagan ceremony of worshipping the queen of heaven with cakes; a custom which still obtains in China, and was found in old Mexico, and still more ancient Egypt, where the cakes were made with horned projections, as a reminder of the sacred heifer, and were called *bons*, or sometimes *bouns*. Hot-cross buns survive, but no peculiar sanitary virtue is attached to the gratings from bread baked on the holy day any more than the cramp-rings once distributed by our sovereigns at Easter are believed to possess specific qualities for curing the disease from which they took their name. In some places there are still mystery-plays, in which, with a strange grotesqueness which shocks strange visitors with a sense of awful profanity, but which is really intended as a semi-religious service, all the circumstances of the betrayal and persecution of our Saviour are acted by a chosen company of performers. Until very recently, if it be not so still, this

below the Clinton Hotel, people were looking anxiously northward into State-street, submerged to the depth of from 1 ft. to 4 ft. for half a mile. On State-street a multitude gazed southward upon the sea extending to the heart of the city; and in many other streets similar scenes were presented. Small boats could be seen in nearly all the streets, and now and then teams were driven through some of them. People were seeking places of safety, some removing goods, and others carrying food to their families, who were imprisoned, as it were, by a boiling and surging stream."

The city of Rochester, where the scene depicted in our Engraving took place, is in the State of New York, and stands on both sides of the Genesee River (here crossed by three bridges, on the Erie Canal), at the terminus of the Genesee Valley Canal, and on the Great Western Railway. It is seven miles south of Lake Ontario, and 293 miles north-west of Albany, the State capital. It has a population of from 40,000 to 50,000. The city has come into importance since 1812, when it consisted of two wooden frame buildings. It has a number of educational institutions of considerable repute, several manufacturing, and a flourishing trade, the the superior water-power at command having given the place great advantages; and it is said that much of the mischief it lately suffered has been the result of encroachments in the course of the stream; and it was some time ago predicted that these encroachments would cause some such misfortune as that which has lately happened.

The oil regions of Pennsylvania have, perhaps, suffered more than any other quarter. Machinery, houses, and immense quantities of oil in store were utterly swept away. Other portions of the country have also suffered severely, Ohio, Western Virginia, and other quarters having been the scene of devastation. The greater part of Wheeling, Western Virginia, was under water, as were various other towns and cities.

#### THE VOLUNTEER REVIEW AT BRIGHTON.

It is admitted on all hands that the volunteer review at Brighton on Easter Monday was by far the most successful gathering of the kind that has yet taken place. The number of volunteers on the ground was greater, the weather was unexceptionable, and the manoeuvres of the whole force were exceedingly well executed, both by the battalions individually and by the brigades conjointly. The artillery was beautifully handled and served, and the cavalry of the Hon. Artillery Company might take its place in any European army. It is most creditable to find that, after four years' trial, the volunteer movement has not only been sustained but has steadily progressed. It is most creditable to the persons who formed the army which was so much admired by all the spectators on Brighton Downs that it should be composed of men who, at their own expense, and out of pure love for soldiering, are clothed, equipped, and transported for a review over a journey of in many cases more than a hundred miles. It is a subject of national congratulation to find that yearly the numbers of men engaged in the Easter review increase, for the numbers at the review are an indication of the numbers of the whole force, which is a multiple of the corps-d'armées engaged at Brighton. Professional critics, perhaps, might be able to point out a few faults, or rather deficiencies, the reparation of which will remove those slight failings, which, almost imperceptible to a non-professional eye, are painful to the military spectator. The order, discipline, and movements of such corps as the London Scottish, the Inns of Court London Rifle Brigade, and London Irish, leave nothing to be desired. In some of the other corps, however, it was observed that proper attention had not been paid to the sizing of the men, that the order for uniformity of carrying the cloaks throughout battalions had been sadly neglected, and that in some cases the growth of hair was so great as to be a cause of inconvenience to its wearer during the field movements. These, however, are after all only trivial matters, and no way detract from the merits of a force which forms not only the nucleus, but the great preponderance, of the army of reserve of our country.



# INNER LIFE OF THE HOUSE OF COMMONS.—NO. 256.

On Monday the House, refreshed by its Easter holidays, assembled again; and, when it had duly prayed and got its Speaker into the chair, its first duty was to swear in four members—new or old revived—who were under the gallery below the bar, with their returns in their hands, waiting the call of Mr. Speaker to advance to the table, and, by taking the oaths of allegiance, supremacy, and abjuration, get themselves constituted fitting members of the Imperial Parliament. There were Mr. Potter, who has been elected as Mr. Cobden's successor; Mr. Young, Scotland's Solicitor-General, whom the electors of the Wigtown boroughs have chosen in place of Sir William Dunbar, who is translated, and has not suffered by translation, as everything is said to do except a Bishop; and Mr. Adam, who, having been elected a Lord of the Treasury, had to go down to Clackmannan to get the sanction of the Clackmannanites to his elevation, according to the statute in such case made and provided. Lords of the Treasury are appointed, or supposed to be appointed, by the Crown, and officials so appointed vacate their seats in Parliament. Under Secretaries are appointed, or presumed to be appointed, by the heads of departments, and not by the Crown, and therefore they, when chosen, do not vacate their seats. Really, Lords of the Treasury and Under Secretaries are appointed by the Minister of the day, and the distinction is simply one of those curious fictions which abound in our Constitution. Lastly, there was Colonel Percy Herbert, who formerly was member for Ludlow, and now sits for South Shropshire, in place of Lord Newport, who is now Earl Bradford.

## A GOOD STROKE OF WORK QUICKLY DONE.

The House of Commons began its regular work, and did a pretty stroke of business on the first night, finishing the Army and Navy Estimates in a few hours, to the great delight of Lord Hartington, Under Secretary for War, and Lord Clarence Paget, Secretary to the Admiralty. These two noble Lords looked quite radiant as they came out of the house with their portfolios and boxes under their arms. And well they might, for their work is over for the Session. No more catechising, except some trifle or so, at the beginning of the evenings; and no more badgering. They may snap their fingers at their tormentors now. They are off the rack, and cannot be stretched upon it again this year. Debates may arise upon army matters and upon naval affairs; but these, if they should turn up, will not be in Committee, but when the House is sitting as a House, when no member can speak more than once; and such debates are mere trifles, compared with discussions in Committee. It is the badgering in Committee which your official dreads, and this is certainly a fiery ordeal; and this the two aforesaid noble Lords have passed through and done with for this Session. Rumour says that Lord Clarence will have to go through it no more. He, it is whispered, will not show in the next Parliament as Secretary for the Admiralty, but will quietly take his pension, which he has duly earned, or will get laid up in ordinary in some quiet permanent official position, and smoke his pipe and drink his grog, careless of mankind, not liable to be disturbed by political storms. This is what Rumour whispers; but she is, as we know, not trustworthy. She has a hundred tongues, and each tongue can lie.

## HOW IT WAS SO EASILY DONE.

It was cleverly arranged to have Supply down as the first order of the day on Monday night, for on the first night after the holidays there are seldom many members present, and a thin House means, almost always, rapid progress of work. Moreover, it is observable that for the first day or two after the recess members are specially courteous and amiable, or, it may be, listless, indifferent, and disinclined to talk. On Monday the House was specially amiable or lazy. We were threatened before the recess with some very searching and severe criticism upon the reform in the War Office, and we confidently expected that whenever the vote for the expenses of that department came on we should have an exciting debate. Sir John Pakington was evidently preparing, if not prepared, for war. General Peel openly announced that these reforms could not be suffered to pass without searching discussion. Sir Stafford Northcote was clearly loaded and primed. But on Monday night, when the vote was called, Sir John was not there; and the gallant General and the late Treasury Secretary, though they spoke at length, were very mild—their gas had all evaporated—and in a couple of hours, or it might be three, the Under Secretary for War got his vote. And, as to Lord Clarence Paget, he slipped his three or four remaining votes through, and got the balance of his account with scarcely a remark. Indeed, there could not be much talk, for there were only about a dozen members present whilst the Navy Estimates were on. Fortunate men! or perhaps we ought to say artful officials—clever tacticians.

## POWERLESS THUNDER.

The *Times* has been thundering lately. *Suo more antiquo*. The thing which made the gods of Printing House-square so angry was a certain bill intitled Land Mortgages and Debentures Bill, introduced into the house by Lord Naas; and very loud was the thunder, and many thought that the bill would be sunk by the loud-sounding storm. But it was not. On the contrary, the measure, notwithstanding all the rattling overhead, serenely glided on its course, as if all were halcyon calm, passing its first and second stages, then to a Committee up stairs and back, and on Tuesday night sliding through the Committee of the whole House, undisturbed by a ripple of opposition, six or eight members only being present the while. What, then? Has the thunder of Printing House-square lost its power to scathe or scare? It would seem so. And why not? We are not barbarians and savages but philosophers now, and have long since learned that mere noisy thunder has no power to hurt. The times are changed, reader. Paper fulminations, whether they come from Rome or Ludgate-hill, we treat as the idle wind, which we regard not. Lord Naas, when he marched down the house with his bill under his arm, unscathed after all this noise, looked merry, we thought.

## THE BUDGET NIGHT.

The opening of the Chancellor of the Exchequer's Budget has become a notable annual exhibition, analogous to the running of the Derby, and would be attended by as great a crowd of people, perhaps, if we had but room for them. As it is, we have a vast crowd—ten times more than can possibly get in. At six o'clock in the morning the holders of orders, or their hired representatives—substitutes paid five shillings to keep the holders' places—are at the door of St. Stephen's Gallery; and before the clock in the old abbey strikes nine there are more people ranged in the said gallery than can be accommodated in the house. Members, too, come down very early to secure their seats—some as early as two o'clock; and from that time till the Speaker enters they keep watch and ward lest their places should be wrested from them. There was a time when a member could go down to the house early in the day, place a card upon a seat, and thus secure it; but now no member can take a seat in this way unless he be present during prayers; and, if he wish to secure a seat before prayers, he must go and sit in it. After prayers, on such a night as this, it is generally vain to look for a seat below; you may possibly find one in the galleries, but not on the floor. This year there was as large a gathering as ever. Every part of the house was crammed, and many of the members had to stand during the whole of the time that the Chancellor of the Exchequer was, in his wonderfully eloquent but circumlocutory style, leisurely unrolling his scroll. To a spectator standing below the bar the scene is a very curious one. Right in front is the wigged and robed Speaker—a very awful-looking personage indeed; but nobody cares for him now, and he seems to care for nobody, but looks straight forward or up at the ceiling, apparently as impassive as the mace upon the table. Before him sit the three clerks, also gownned and wigged; and very indifferent are they; and, but that Sir Denis Le Marchant now and then twists his wig, they might be taken for mere ornaments, like the carved heraldic lions below the bar. On the right are celebrated Ministers of the Crown—men famous, more

or less, all over the world. And on the left is at least one man—to wit, Disraeli—who is worthy of notice, if we could afford to give it. But, in truth, we cannot afford to give it now. Gladstone is the hero of the night, and on him all eyes are centred, and to his musical voice all ears are intently listening. But here we must stop. We have just given our readers again a glimpse of the House on a Budget night; and this week we can do no more, for the printer is waiting, and can wait no longer.

## Imperial Parliament.

MONDAY, APRIL 24.

### HOUSE OF COMMONS.

#### THE WAR OFFICE.

The House of Commons met on Monday, after the recess, and went into Committee on the Army Estimates.

On the remaining vote (Vote 18) of £212,800 for the Administration of the Army.

General PEEL entered upon a detailed review of the organisation of the War Office, and of the reports of the Committee upon that department, explaining his views as to the principles which should govern promotion of the clerks, and expressing his dissent from some of the suggestions of the majority of the Committee, remarking that no system could, in his opinion, work well that was unpopular in the department.

Sir E. NORTHGOTE followed in a similar criticism of the reports, and especially of the substitution of branch promotion for office promotion in the department, suggesting that the evils which attended changes of system should recommend caution in introducing them. He urged, as General Peel had done, attention to the case of the temporary clerks in the War Office, whose treatment, he thought, was hardly equitable.

After a few remarks by Sir H. Verney,

The Marquis of HARTINGTON began by expressing his regret that the reports of the Committee had not been received with satisfaction by the Office; but this, he said, did not affect his opinion as to the soundness of their conclusions. After referring to the chief reasons which had led to the appointment of the Committee, he stated the principal points respecting which any difference of opinion had existed in the Committee. He defended their recommendations on the subject of promotion, observing that those recommendations were not made with a view to any saving; the main object was the efficiency of the department, and if economy was the result, which was the fact, this had been only a secondary consideration. In conclusion, he gave explanations upon various points mooted by General Peel and Sir S. Northcote, justifying the course pursued towards the temporary clerks in the War Office.

The vote was ultimately agreed to.

#### NAVY ESTIMATES.

The Committee then took the remaining Navy Estimates, when certain votes were agreed to, after a short discussion, and ordered to be reported.

The Report of the Committee of Supply was brought up and agreed to.

TUESDAY, APRIL 25.

### HOUSE OF COMMONS.

#### GREENWICH HOSPITAL.

Mr. CHILDERS moved for leave to bring in a bill to provide for the better government of Greenwich Hospital and the more beneficial application of the revenues thereof. He recapitulated the statements he had made last year as to the intentions of the Government, and observed that, as the questions involved matters of detail concerning the department of the Treasury as well as that of the Admiralty, a joint Committee of members of both departments had been appointed, who had carefully considered the whole subject, and the bill he proposed to introduce was the result of their report. He then proceeded to develop in minute detail the new scheme of management and the system under which the revenues were to be distributed, explaining the effects of the arrangements in extending the benefits of the institution, the financial results of the proposed changes, and the manner in which compensations were to be provided for existing interests.

After some observations by Mr. Lygon, Sir J. Hay, Lord C. Paget, and Admiral Walcott, leave was given to bring in the bill.

#### CHARITABLE TRUSTS FEES BILL.

Mr. HANKEY moved the second reading of the Charitable Trusts Fees Bill. He thought the nation should not bear charges which were a fair subject of a small taxation, so that the Commission should defray its own expenses, now amounting to £20,000, and which were increasing.

Sir M. PETO moved to defer the second reading for six months. The question, he said, had been repeatedly before the House and the country, which was opposed to the taxing of charities.

Some discussion followed, after which the motion for the second reading was negatived, and the amendment was agreed to; so the bill was lost.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 26.

### HOUSE OF COMMONS.

On the motion of Sir G. Bowyer, the Inns of Court Bill was read a second time.

Alderman Salomons moved the second reading of the Metropolitan Toll Bridges Bill, by which bridges in the metropolitan area are to be made free.

Sir G. Grey thought the object of the bill a good one, but took exception to the means by which it was to be obtained. The city of London was rich enough to buy up the bridges within her limits without taxing her neighbours. He suggested that the bill should go to a Select Committee.

After some discussion, in which Mr. Locke, Mr. Ayrton, Mr. Liddell, and Mr. Jackson took part, the bill was read a second time and referred to a Select Committee.

THURSDAY, APRIL 27.

### HOUSE OF LORDS.

#### ASSASSINATION OF PRESIDENT LINCOLN.

Earl RUSSELL gave notice that on Monday next he would move a humble address to her Majesty, expressive of commiseration in the feelings she must experience in reference to the assassination of the President of the United States.

#### HOUSE OF COMMONS.

##### THE ASSASSINATION OF PRESIDENT LINCOLN.

Sir G. GREY said, in order to give the House an opportunity of expressing an opinion on the assassination of the President of the United States, his noble friend Lord Palmerston, on Monday next, intended to move a humble address to her Majesty expressing his sorrow and indignation at the assassination of the President of the United States, and also for conveying its sympathy to the Government and the people of the United States under the lamentable calamity.

#### THE BUDGET.

On the motion for going into Committee of Ways and Means,

The CHANCELLOR OF THE EXCHEQUER, who was received with much applause, said there was a great contrast between the opening and the close of the present Parliament. At the former period there had been bad harvests, and clouds were overhanging Europe; but, although they had been dissipated here, they had travelled westward, and burst there with terrific vehemence. The condition of this country was, however, eminently prosperous. A revenue larger than ever before, either in peace or war, had been raised from taxation alone; and expenditure had prevailed greater than had ever before been known in time of peace. This Parliament had also enjoyed the distinction—although no Parliament ever reached its legal term—that this was the seventh time that it was called upon to provide for the financial necessities of the year. The expenditure of the year which had just expired was estimated at 66,890,000, and the Appropriation Bill provided for an expenditure of 67,773,000; whereas the actual expenditure was no more than 66,462,000. He compared the expenditure with that of previous years. The expenditure of last year was a million and a half less than in 1859-60; it was less than that of 1860-1, which was the highest ever known in time of peace, by the sum of 6,547,000; but, as compared with the year 1858-9, the year before the extensive operations connected with the military and naval departments commenced, he arrived at a very different result, for there was an increase of no less than three millions and a half; and, to go back further—to the year before the Russian War—there had taken place an increase in the annual charges of the country to the amount of no less than twelve millions and a half. The expenditure for the year ending the 31st of March, 1865, was 66,462,000; the actual revenue for the same period was 70,313,000, showing a surplus of revenue over expenditure of 3,851,000; but if he included, as he, perhaps, ought to do, the cost of the fortifications, which were specially provided for by terminable annuities, the total expenditure of the year was 67,082,000; and, in this case, there was still a surplus of 3,231,000. The revenue, as he had estimated it on the 7th of April last year, was 67,128,000; but the actual receipts were 70,313,000. This surplus, he was glad to say, extended over every item of the revenue, even to the miscellaneous receipts. He then pointed out that, in spite of the reduction of the sugar duties, the actual yield had fully made up the loss, and that the increase on the excise was little short of marvellous. In order to show the growth of the revenue of the country, he stated that between 1840 and 1862, the year preceding the outbreak of the Russian War, the balance of taxes repealed over taxes imposed amounted to upwards of 5,000,000; from 1853 to 1859 it was between six and seven millions; and from 1859 to 1865 it was 6,137,000. Thus in the first period, from 1840 to 1852, the annual rate of increase in revenue was 1,030,000; in the second period, 1,240,000; and in the third, 1,780,000. In the balances of the country there had also been an increase of 348,000, and the total amount of debt paid off in the year was 5,340,000. In 1859 the public debt was 823,334,000, and it now stood at 808,288,000, showing a diminution in the

six years of 17,046,000. Referring to the effect of the legislation in reference to paper, he said that the trade had not left the country, nor did it evince any intention of doing so. On the contrary, it was striking its roots deeper and deeper; while, at the same time, the consumer was supplied more largely and more cheaply than at any former period. The importation of paper from abroad had risen to nearly half a million of money, and the amount of materials imported for making British paper had increased from 17,700 tons to 20,400 tons in 1862; to 44,000 tons in 1863; and to 67,000 tons in 1864. Our trade with France continued to increase. Although, as compared with two or three years ago, the exports of British produce had slightly diminished, the total trade with France was steadily increasing in imports as well as exports. In 1859, the total amount of our trade with France was 26,431,000; in 1864 it was 49,797,000, showing an increase of 23,000,000, or nearly 90 per cent. As regarded the whole trade of the country, it had undergone a large further increase in the year just expired, and now stood as follows:—Imports, 274,000,000; exports, 212,000,000; total, 487,000,000, showing an increase of 219,000,000, since 1864. There was an impression that, although the increase in our trade was great, it was less than the increase in the trade of foreign countries. It was quite true that the trade of France exhibited a larger relative rate of increase than ours; but that was because the trade of France since the great war, and since the crushing depopulation of the last years of that war, remained under an unnatural depression. In France, in 1854, the exports were 78,000,000; and in 1863, 141,000,000, showing an increase of 81 per cent. In the United Kingdom the exports, in 1854, were 116,000,000; and in 1863, 197,000,000, showing an increase of 70 per cent. He believed that enormous—nay, boundless—advantages had resulted from the inventive spirit which had distinguished the mechanism of the age, from the improvement in the methods of locomotion. He believed that the people might be said to pay to the railway at least thirty millions sterling a year; and it was a very moderate estimate to put the benefit which they otherwise derived from that introduction at another thirty millions sterling per annum. He believed that equal, if not greater, advantages had resulted from the removal of those obstructions which the perversity of man himself had placed on the freedom of trade and industry. It was given to the United Kingdom to lead the vanguard of civilisation; or, in the words of one of our greatest poets,

To serve a model for a mighty world,  
And be a first beginning of the time.

Having been associated very closely with Mr. Cobden in the negotiations on account of the French treaty, he might be permitted to take this opportunity of bearing his feeble testimony to the merits of one whom it was impossible not to call to mind on this occasion. Mr. Cobden needed no eulogy at his hands, for his memory is a part of the history of his country; and the recollection of his distinguished services would be the recollection of a character so pure, so courageous, so simple, so disinterested, and so devoted, that it gave as much lustre to his great talents as it received lustre from them. He had now arrived at the revenue and expenditure of the present year. The charge of the Funded and Unfunded Debt was 26,350,000; the Consolidated Fund, 1,900,000; Army, 14,348,000; Navy, 10,392,000; collection of the revenue, 4,657,000; packet service, 842,000; miscellaneous, 7,650,000,—making the total charges for the year 66,139,000. The revenue he estimated as follows:—Customs, 22,775,000; excise, 19,030,000; stamps, 9,550,000; assessed taxes, 3,850,000; property tax, 7,800,000; Post Office, 425,000; Crown lands, 362,000; miscellaneous, 2,650,000; China indemnity, 450,000; making the total revenue 70,170,000. Deducting from this the expenditure of 66,139,000, it showed a probable surplus of 4,031,000. He now came to the disposal of this surplus. It would first of all be proposed to remove the anomaly in the conveyance and transfer of shares, by which, in order to effect a small saving, two were required instead of one. He proposed to place scrip, certificates, and receipts of bonds, both home and foreign, on the same footing. He also proposed to reduce the duty on agreements for letting small tenements from sixpence to one penny. He proposed to reduce the duty on appraisements to £5, and to relieve the special pleaders and conveyancers by putting them on the same footing as attorneys, by allowing them a reduction to the extent of half the duty for the first three years. He also proposed to reduce the stamp duties on ecclesiastical licenses where the operation of the present system prevented the use of the instrument to which such licenses applied. The next change was in the stamp on charterparties, which operated very hardly upon gentlemen in the North of England. At present the charge on a charterparty was 5s., and he proposed to reduce it to 6d., subject to the condition of having a proper printed stamped paper, because the Government preferred getting a 6d. duty, properly secured to them, rather than a 5s. duty, which they only obtained in a very few instances. The duty on re-insurance imposed last year was proposed to be removed, as being burdensome, and the duty on what were termed time policies in marine insurances was also to be reduced; and, lastly, a change would be made in the stamp duty on assurances given by certain companies against accidental death, personal injury, and damage to plate glass. He now came to the subject of the malt duty—with respect to which a debate had already arisen—on which many in that house entertained strong convictions, and which, undoubtedly, deserved the serious consideration of the House, as it had obtained the very laborious and minute inquiries of the Government. He would first of all advert to the arguments made use of with respect to the pressure of the malt duties on agriculture. It had been constantly said that they had not done anything for the agricultural classes. They had, in fact, for a series of years been trying to legislate in the interest of all classes, and not of an individual class. When did Parliament consent to surrender the revenue of the country in any other interest than the broad, general interest of the country. He thought that if any proposal had been made in the interest of any class, they had done so in the interest of the growers of hops. With respect to the allegation made in regard to the charge on beer that the duty being only 6,000,000, the actual cost to the consumer was 20,000,000, a year, he denied the accuracy of the assertion altogether. The real charge imposed by the malt duty and the license in enhancing the cost of beer he would show. There was one question which had been raised in connection with this duty, which he believed they had nearly heard the last of—namely, the preparation of malt for feeding cattle. It was now proved that malt was only an exceptionally good food for cattle, and the proof being that, of twenty-eight maltings opened for the preparation of malt for feeding purposes, eleven had closed, not on account of excise restrictions, but on account of want of demand for barley malted for cattle. If it were true that the effect of the tax of 6,000,000, on malt imposed a burden of 20,000,000 on the consumer of beer, it was plain that it must operate vastly to the benefit of those who obtained the intermediate amount of 14,000,000. The truth was that the abolition of the malt duty would be the death-warrant of all our system of indirect taxation; for, with malt untaxed, it would be impossible to retain the tax on tea and sugar on the one hand, and on wine and spirits on the other. The question which he had to solve, with a view to the reduction of the duty on malt, was to arrive at the actual tax if placed on beer; and he boldly stated that 12½ per cent on beer, as asserted by the President of the Board of Trade, was a rigidly accurate estimate for purposes of comparison with the duties on tea and sugar. The result of the minutest inquiry by the revenue officers had proved that, taking a barrel of beer, the price was enhanced by the malt duty and its incidents to the extent of about 20 per cent, and he defied anyone to impugn that calculation. They would not be able to touch the malt duty to the extent of giving the consumer one farthing on the quart without, in the first year, involving a loss to the revenue of 2,480,000, and in the second year of 3,969,000. There would not only be no increase to the revenue from the increase of consumption, but the increased consumption would further diminish the revenue by decreasing the consumption of spirits. He was quite willing to set out with his opponents on the race of philanthropy; but, at all events, they must find the money for the nation first. The fact was that it would take a consumption in malt to the extent of 8l. to give to the revenue the amount contributed to it by the consumption of 1l. worth of spirits. Moreover, there would be a further loss from the demands it would give rise to by the representatives of Ireland and Scotland. What were the grounds for this inroad on their fiscal system? Was the beer trade a declining one? Was this excellent beverage no longer national? On the contrary, the trade was increasing, and that increase was mainly attributable to the burdens placed on spirits. He quoted returns to show that, while the consumption of malt per head of the population had increased, the consumption of spirits had decreased. With twenty millions of population, the consumption of beer was twenty million barrels, or exactly one barrel per head. For his own part, he could not see what the producers of malt had to complain of when it was shown that the consumption of beer had been steadily increasing, and the price of the raw material regularly and progressively going up. At present the taxation upon beer was by no means so heavy, and justly so, as upon wine and spirits; but if beer ought not to be taxed more heavily than wine and spirits, then tea ought not to be taxed more heavily than beer; yet the tax upon a barrel of beer was only 20 per cent, as compared with the price of beer, while upon tea it was not less than 44 per cent. Returning to malt, he proposed to give the maltster, if he thought fit, the option of having the duty charged by weight. He held out no hope of the immediate reduction of the malt duty; but the position of the Government upon the subject of indirect taxation was not so favourable as it might be some time hence. Up to the present time they had felt it a paramount consideration to award a considerable portion of the reduction of taxation to the income tax. With regard to the malt tax, it was not in their power to ask the House to absorb so very large a portion of the surplus of the present year as would be necessary, together with the future burden that would be entailed in making a partial remission of the malt tax; and they had arrived at the conclusion, as the result of that examination of the relative weight of taxation, that the best step they could ask the House to take was to do that act of justice which hitherto had remained undone, and to place the duty upon tea in just relation to the duty upon beer. They thought it best to make a proposal that would be of a decisive character, and afford the consumer the benefit of a considerable reduction. Taking the price of tea as delivered out of bond at 2s. 6d. per lb., they felt that if they could reduce the duty



on tea by so large a sum as 6d. in the lb. they would cause a reduction in the wholesale price of the article of 20 per cent. The estimated consumption of tea for 1865-6 was 92,000,000 lb., and the loss of 6d. a lb. would amount to 2,300,000l.; but, as a portion of the year had already expired, the total loss of revenue during the year would be 1,868,000l. The next question was that of the income tax. The justification of the present Parliament for not having redeemed previous pledges with respect to this tax was the fact already mentioned, that since the Russian War an increase of twelve millions had been made to the annual expenditure of the country. Under these circumstances he could not see, as some persons appeared to think, that he himself was personally pledged to do away with the income tax; but it was now in his power to make a proposal to the House which would bring the income tax within manageable limits, and ask the House to reduce the income tax by two thirds, or 2d. in the pound. If this proposal were agreed to the annual yield of the income tax would be reduced to 5,200,000l., at which figure the income tax would be handed over to the new Parliament. The yield of the tax was so rapidly increasing that 1d. in the pound produced the sum of 1,300,000l., instead of a million. The result of the reduction, therefore, would be a loss to the revenue of 2,600,000l.; but of this sum only 1,650,000l. would accrue during the current year. The only remaining question with which he had now to deal was the fire insurance duty. The reductions which he had already indicated would absorb 3,518,000l. of his surplus, but it would still leave a narrow margin which would enable him to carry out the express wishes of the House. He referred to the resolution which was passed on March 31, on the motion of Mr. Sheridan; and, although the returns were not yet complete, the result of the reduction of the duty on stock in trade did not make him very sanguine as to the reduction leading to any great increase in the practice of insurance. He had estimated the recovery last year at the moderate figure of 10 per cent; but the returns did not at present come up to that amount. Nevertheless, he trusted that the reduction of the duty as indicated by the resolution of the House would lead to a considerable recovery. If it did, the result would be most satisfactory; but, if it did not, the Government had the means to effect a change, which would take place under the authority of the House, and it would then be its duty to consider whether it should not place the tax on a still more free and liberal footing. The yield of the fire insurance duty for the year, without any alteration, would be 1,450,000l.; but he should propose to reduce it to a uniform duty of 1s. 6d. from the 20th of June. He should also propose a further change, not indicated by the resolution of the House, but which would meet with general approval, and reduce the duty of the policy, which acted as a great obstacle to small insurances, but which was quite distinct from the duty on the annual renewal of the policy, from one shilling to a penny. The result will be that for half the year they will receive the duty at the old rate, or the sum of 725,000l. The rate of the new duty for the whole year would 990,000l., or a loss of 260,000l. for the whole year. Taking, then, the half of these new amounts, the whole amount of the duty for the current year would be 1,190,000l., or a loss of 260,000l., with a further loss in the following year of 260,000l. more. The result of the changes which he had now proposed might be briefly summarised as follows:—The reduction of the tea duties would give a relief of 2,000,000l., the income tax 2,600,000l., and the fire insurance duty 620,000l., making, with the minor changes, a total relief of 5,420,000l.; but of this amount 3,778,000l. would fall within the current year. There would, therefore, be left a slight surplus of 254,000l., which the Government asked the House to leave in its hands. There would, however, be a further loss of 1,411,000l. in the following year, making the permanent loss to the revenue of 5,195,000l. In conclusion, he forcibly urged the House to accept his scheme, which was intended to meet the interests of the whole community, and not for any particular class. It was simple in the extreme, considering that it dealt with a larger and more elaborate reduction in the taxation than had ever before been proposed at one time; and he trusted that it would win the approval of the House and gain the verdict of the country at large.

The right hon. gentleman sat down, after a speech of two hours and a half. The resolution reducing the tea duties was, after some discussion, agreed to. The reception of the financial scheme appeared to be remarkably favourable.

#### OBITUARY.

**MRS. ADOLPHUS TROLLOPE.**—Mrs. Adolphus Trollope died, in Florence, a few days ago, and is regretted by all who had the privilege of knowing her personally, and moreover by all Italians, who are aware of the great love she had for their country, both in its evil and prosperous days. The local papers, as well as those of Northern Italy, have paid their feeling tribute of sympathy and sorrow for the extinction of a life the best part of which was spent in doing good to Italy's cause. The late Mrs. A. Trollope wrote much and well of the men and matters of this country. Her "Social Aspects of the Italian Revolution" is a valuable work.

**GENERAL KMETZ.**—We have to announce the death, on the 25th inst., of General Kmetz, whose name is associated with the events of the Hungarian Revolution and the Crimean War. He was one of the leaders in the Hungarian struggle for independence, who, with Kossuth, Bem, Dombinski, and others, took refuge in Turkey when the Hungarian army was exterminated, and the cause became hopeless. Kmetz then entered the Turkish service, receiving the name and title of Ismail Pacha. He is best known in this country from the part he bore in the defence of Kars, in 1865, against the Russian army under General Mouravieff. The name of Ismail Pacha is combined with that of Sir F. Williams in all the incidents of that long siege, which, by the skill of the commanders and the unexampled endurance of the ill-provided Turkish garrison, was prolonged many months. The attack made by the Russians on the 29th of September in that year was repulsed by the Turks after an engagement which lasted nearly seven hours, and in which the Russians lost more than 5000 men. In this battle General Kmetz and the Turkish soldiers under his command fought with the most determined bravery. The strict blockade of the place, however, continued, and Kars surrendered in November, the troops being nearly exhausted by famine. All the attempts made by the Turkish Government to relieve the place had failed. General Kmetz had for some time resided in England. He had been indisposed for a few months past, but his death was unexpected. He was only fifty-four years of age.

**THE CENTRE OF THE PARIS EXHIBITION BUILDING FOR 1867** is to be occupied with a garden, round which will radiate the courts.

**THE IRON RAM-FRIGATE BELLEPHON** was safely floated out of No. 2 dock at Chatham, on Wednesday, in the presence of a large concourse of spectators.

**WEST LONDON INDUSTRIAL EXHIBITION.**—The inaugural ceremony will take place at the Floral Hall, Covent-garden, on Monday afternoon, the 1st of May, at three o'clock precisely. The musical arrangements will be on a very large scale, and the orchestra engaged for this occasion will embrace the names of all the most eminent professors in London. The number of entries of articles for exhibition is unusually large, compared with exhibitions of a similar character; and, altogether, the undertaking bids fair to be a great success.

**ATTEMPTED ASSASSINATION OF THE RUSSIAN SECRETARY OF LEGATION IN PARIS.**—A frightful occurrence took place at Paris on Monday afternoon. A stranger obtained access to the Russian Secretary of Legation, at the offices of the Embassy, and stabbed him five times with a dagger. The assassin was arrested. The murderer wounded two other persons before he could be secured. The Paris papers state that he was formerly a sub-lieutenant in the Russian army. He came to the Embassy, it seems, to seek assistance of the Secretary. The latest accounts report that the Secretary is not dead, and that Dr. Nelaton hopes to be able to save his life.

**THE NORTH STAFFORDSHIRE STRIKE.**—A meeting of delegates from the nonworkers in the South Staffordshire districts was held at Brierley Hill, on Saturday, at which the position of their brethren in North Staffordshire was taken into consideration. The general feeling amongst the delegates was that the men in South Staffordshire, by the action of the masters in enforcing the lock-out, notwithstanding the pledge given by their executive not to afford any assistance to the men in North Staffordshire, were thereby absolved from that pledge; and, after some discussion, it was resolved that the South Staffordshire districts should support the men in the northern district while they remained on strike. In accordance with this resolution, a considerable sum will this week be sent from the South to the men in the northern district, which, supplemented by the several trades' subscriptions from London and elsewhere, will be amply sufficient to pay the men on strike a fair dividend for several weeks to come. The men still declare their willingness to submit the wages question to arbitration, provided the masters will, pending the proceedings of that arbitration, allow them to resume work at the old rate of wages. They declare their determination to resume work on no other condition.

**DEATH OF THE CZAREWITCH.**—The Czarevitch died, at Nice, on Monday morning. The deceased Prince, who was only twenty-two years old, was heir to the throne of All the Russias. He was greatly beloved by his family and all who were intimate with him; and the affliction of the Royal family of Russia, and of Princess Dagmar, to whom the deceased Prince was betrothed, will meet with universal sympathy. The Emperor of Russia arrived at Nice in time to see his son before his death, who also took an affecting farewell of Princess Dagmar. According to the law now in force, the Grand Duke Alexander, the second son of the Emperor of Russia, is heir apparent. His Imperial Highness was born in March, 1845, and is consequently now in his twenty-first year. The remaining children of the Emperor and the Empress are the Grand Duke Vladimir, born in April, 1847; the Grand Duke Alexis, born in January, 1850; the Grand Duchess Maria, born in October, 1853; the Grand Duke Serge, born in April, 1857; and the Grand Duke Paul, born in September, 1859. Death has been busy of late with members of the Russian Imperial family; for on the 1st of March last died the Dowager Queen of Holland, sister of the late Emperor Nicholas and aunt of his present Majesty; while only a few days since the Grand Duchess Anna of Mecklenburg-Schwerin, the Empress of Russia's niece, died within a twelvemonth after her marriage to the Grand Duke.

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SATURDAY, APRIL 29, 1865.

#### TOPICS OF THE DAY.

**THE surrender of General Lee brings the American war virtually to a conclusion.** It does not, however, put an end to the difficulties of the Americans. We have never supposed, as many of our contemporaries have done, that the cessation of actual war would be followed by a hostile occupation of Southern territory by the Northern armies; and that the Confederates would find themselves in the same position with regard to the Federals that the Hungarians occupy in Austria and the Poles in Russia. The South had intelligible grounds for quarrelling with the North; but, at least, North and South have never yet existed as separate States; they have a common history, a common civilisation, and, until the civil war broke out, were, in the eyes of Europe, but one people. It was possible, however, that the Northern Government might, by a series of cruel acts, rouse in the breasts of the Southerners feelings which need not necessarily have any place there; and that mere tyranny might cause a separation between the conquerors and the conquered for which no sufficient natural causes can be said to exist. Fortunately, the North, in its moment of triumph, seemed inclined to behave with great moderation. To say that General Grant has given terms to General Lee which would never have been conceded by the representative of one of the despotic Governments in Europe to subjects in rebellion, is to say very little indeed. Austria, in 1849, did not hesitate to execute the Hungarian Generals after they had been led to believe that the cessation of hostilities would be followed by an amnesty. Russia, after each insurrection in Poland, exiles by tens of thousands not only those who have aided the insurgents, but many even of those who are only accused of having wished them success. The English, too, quelled the Irish insurrections of the last and of the beginning of the present century as though they never expected Englishmen and Irishmen to be friends; and the suppression of the Indian mutiny was simply the replacement of the inhabitants of India beneath a detested yoke, which they had very nearly succeeded in shaking off, and which it was thought necessary to force upon them, at least for a time, more severely than ever.

Nothing of this kind seems likely to take place in America. Lee's soldiers lay down their arms, go home, and are in the same position they occupied before the war. Lee's officers, of course, enjoy the same advantages as the soldiers, and, moreover, keep their sabres. It is true that General Lee, in capitulating, was in a position to stipulate for terms. But it also appears that General Grant offered spontaneously the conditions which, after a very short correspondence, were acceded to. He, indeed, proposed all that it was in his power to propose, and General Lee had nothing to do but to accept at once.

The capitulation of General Lee does not, as a matter of necessity, put an end to the war. There are still large bodies of Southern troops in existence; but when the Commander-in-Chief has surrendered, when the head of the civil Government has disappeared, and when the capital of the Confederation is in the hands of the enemy, it is superfluous to say that the Confederate cause is lost.

All our news this week is of peace. Not only is the American war virtually at an end, but—to descend from great wars to small ones—the Algerian insurrection is entirely quelled, and even the unappeasable, irrepressible Mexico is said to be pretty nearly pacified.

That the Arab tribes who had taken arms against the French have been defeated we quite believe, or the Emperor would not be now on the point of sailing for Algeria with the intention, it is supposed, of granting an amnesty to all who were implicated in the recent disturbances. But the telegraphic despatch which brings news of the happy state of things now being established in Mexico, is, to say the least, strangely worded. "The pacification of Mexico," it says, "is becoming more and more complete. General de Castagny has burned St. Sebastian. Romero and three other chiefs have been shot." The telegraphic style, of course, does not admit of transitions. The telegrapher must pass rapidly and abruptly from one fact to another; and the reader of telegrams often connects two statements which were never intended to be viewed together. Otherwise, we should know at once what to think of pacification brought about through burning towns and shooting chiefs.

Let us hope that, although St. Sebastian has been burned, and although Romero and three other chiefs have been executed, endeavours are yet being made to pacify Mexico by other and very different means. How such pacification is to be brought about we confess we do not quite understand. The commercial class may, and no doubt does, desire to see a regular Government, no matter of what origin, established in

Mexico. But this class must be very small, and the great body of the population cannot be expected to obey the foreigners who have invaded and seized upon the country, unless they are absolutely forced to do so.

The death of the Czarevitch, like the death of any other young man, is a sad thing. In Russia the loss of the heir to the Crown will be regarded as a national calamity, and the affliction of the Emperor will be felt by some sixty millions of his subjects. This alone gives importance to the event. It cannot, however, in any remarkable manner affect the succession to the Russian throne, which, if law can regulate it, is secure in the family of the Emperor Alexander. The present Czarevitch is the eldest of five children; and they must all of them, girls as well as boys, die without leaving issue before the Emperor's brother, the Grand Duke Constantine, could assume the Imperial Crown. His chances even of governing Russia as Regent are not very great, for the actual heir to the throne is already nearly of age.

The young Princess Dagmar is left, by the death of the Czarevitch, almost in the position of a widow. She has been solemnly betrothed to him according to the Russian ecclesiastical forms, and was supposed to be undergoing a special religious training so as to prepare her for the change of faith—or act of apostasy, as some would call it—required from all Russian Imperial brides who do not already belong to the Russian Church. Fortunately, Princess Dagmar had not yet been formally converted. It takes precisely one year—365 days, neither more nor less—to convince a Protestant Princess about to marry into the Russian Imperial family of the superiority of the Russian to all other religions. The period is fixed by law; otherwise, as the case of Prince George of Greece proves, the change might be effected in a few days. This, of course, applies only to Princes and Princesses. To induce an English or a Scotch peasant to go over to the Greek Church would be found a very tedious and troublesome matter indeed.

#### SAYINGS AND DOINGS.

**THE EMPRESS OF THE FRENCH** has accepted the title of patroness of the Central Society for the Protection of Shipwrecked Sailors, recently founded at Paris.

**KING LEOPOLD OF BELGIUM** has again been seriously ill, an attack of bronchitis having supervened on the illness he suffered while in England. The last reports state that his Majesty is somewhat better.

**THE LORD CHANCELLOR**, it was rumoured in town on Tuesday, had resigned, the resignation having been accepted by Lord Palmerston.

**TWO HOUSES** have been taken at Bonchurch for the Empress of Austria, who is ordered to the Isle of Wight for health's sake.

**DR. STANLEY**, Dean of Westminster, has intimated his intention of supporting the candidature of Mr. J. S. Mill for Westminster.

**CONDENSED ALE** is the latest invention in the beverage line.

**THE ENGINEER** who drove the special train in which the Emperor of Russia travelled from Cologne to Paris is a Polish refugee.

**A NEW RELIGIOUS SECT**, called "Perfectionists," has started up at Johnstone, near Glasgow. "They profess to be incapable of committing sin of any kind, being pure and perfect in thought, word, and deed."

**SHAKESPEARE'S BIRTHDAY** was celebrated (at Stratford-on-Avon) on the 24th inst., by a general holiday and a banquet. Several London literary and dramatic clubs had dinners on the occasion.

**THE TORONTO COURT** has discharged all the St. Albans raiders except one, who was committed for trial.

**A MATRIMONIAL ALLIANCE** is said to be contemplated between the Prince Royal of Hanover, who will soon complete his 21st year, and Princess Helena, third daughter of Queen Victoria.

**A DRAPER**, named Dunning, aged seventy-five, died in London a few days ago, of an overdose of hot-cross buns, of which he had eaten fourteen.

**DR. FRITCHARD**, of Glasgow, has been committed for trial on the charge of murdering his mother-in-law as well as his wife.

**CHOLERA** has broken out in the 4th Regiment, in the north of the Madras Presidency, and 250 of the ranks had died. The regiment has been removed to Secunderabad.

**"FAIX,"** said a humorous Irishman the other day in the petroleum diggings, "ye may call Amerikee a continent if ye please, but to my thinkin' it's a beautiful oil-land" (island).

**THE YOUNG KING OF BAVARIA** has established a law which compels the Government to submit its Budget to the Chamber every two years instead of every six, as formerly, and the organisation of a system of municipal self-government.

**A YOUNG GENTLEMAN** went to shoot rats in a straw-rick at Taunton a few days since. On seeing the straw move he fired at the spot, and shot a man who had taken refuge there.

**AN ACTOR AT VIENNA**, named Ascher, has just been condemned to a week's imprisonment for having mimicked on the stage M. de Schmerling by gestures and by wearing the costume of an Austrian functionary; and also for introducing political allusions into a piece.

**A DORSET PAPER** recently contained an advertisement for a plain cook, in which it was stated that "one who can neither read nor write will be preferred."

**THREE CONFEDERATE ARMIES** have surrendered to General Grant—that under Buckner, at Fort Donelson, on Feb. 16, 1862; that under Pemberton, at Vicksburg, on July 4, 1863; and that under General Lee, on April 9, 1865.

**THE SCOTCH** have a great fancy for marrying on the last day of the year. The number of marriages in the eight principal towns of Scotland average twenty-five a day; but on Dec. 31 there are between 400 and 500.

**A REGULARLY-ORGANISED GANG OF FORGERS** has been apprehended in Bombay, and an investigation shows that each member, by an ingeniously contrived system of division of labour, contributed towards forging and uttering allotment papers of some of the banks and financial associations.

**LOCAL SELF-GOVERNMENT** is being introduced into Turkey, which will henceforth have its vestries and town councils, like other civilised nations, instead of having all its affairs administered from Constantinople.

**THE VICTORIA CROSS** has been conferred on Midshipman D. G. Boyes Colour-Sergeant Thomas Fride, and William Seeley, of H.M.S. Euryalus, for gallant conduct at the bombardment in the Strait of Simonsaki, Japan, in September, 1864. Lieutenant Arthur F. Pickard has also been decorated with the cross for gallant conduct in an engagement with the New Zealand natives in 1863.

**A LAUGHABLE STORY** is told from Lancaster. A farmer thought he saw a man sleeping in his barn, and sent for officer A. I., who, after providing himself with lantern, handcuffs, and staff, went to the barn, stirred up the figure, lectured it, and threatened it, and ended by discovering that it was the old figure-head of a ship, partly covered with hay.

**BRIGADIER-GENERAL G. W. C. LEE**, captured by General Sheridan, is the oldest son of General Robert E. Lee. He was formerly in the engineering corps of the United States army. Brigadier-General W. H. Fitzhugh Lee, reported to have been killed at Petersburg, but since said to have been taken prisoner at Selma, was the second son of General Robert E. Lee. He was second lieutenant in the United States army when the war commenced.

**A GREAT MEETING OF NON-ELECTORS** was held in St. George's Hall, Bradford, on Tuesday evening, to insist on Reform. Professor Fawcett was one of the speakers, and was most intently listened to by the thousands who crowded the building. Resolutions censuring the Government for their apathy in respect to Reform, and in favour of a rating suffrage, were carried.

**THE FLORENCE NIGHTINGALE LIFE-BOAT.**—The people of Derby, on the 22nd inst., witnessed a most interesting sight in the launch of their life-boat into the River Derwent. The life-boat was christened, by Miss Wilnot, the Florence Nightingale, after the distinguished lady of that name, who is a native of Derbyshire. The banks of the river were thronged by thousands of spectators, who heartily cheered as the boat glided into the water. The cost of the life-boat has been collected by the people of Derby and presented to the National Life-boat Institution. The boat is to be stationed at Sunderland, where she arrived on the 25th inst.





THE VOLUNTEER REVIEW ON BRIGHTON DOWNS.—SEE PAGE 261.





THE HOUSE OF COMMONS ON THE BUDGET NIGHT.—SEE P. GE 262.



## THE LOUNGER AT THE CLUBS.

I WAS sorry and surprised to see in the papers the other day a record of the death of Mr. Henry Arthur Wilkinson, formerly member for Lambeth and three times unsuccessful candidate for Reigate; and yet I know not why I should be surprised, for Mr. Wilkinson had arrived at the age of seventy, and at that age life must be uncertain. In common with all who knew Mr. Wilkinson, I had a great respect for him. He was, I believe, truly an honest man. Indeed, but for his outspoken honesty he would never have lost Lambeth. My readers will remember that it was Roupell who, in 1857, beat Wilkinson out of the field. Wilkinson had offended Lambeth. I forget what was exactly the cause of offence—some Sabbath bill, surely, upon which, with more freedom than worldly policy, Mr. Wilkinson had spoken his mind, and Roupell was selected to deliver Lambeth from Wilkinson, and was elected by the astonishing majority of some 6000 votes, Roupell polling 9318 to Wilkinson's 3234. This was in 1857, and for two years Roupell was member for Lambeth, but only for two years, for in 1859 that crash came which we so well remember, and Roupell, the idol of Lambeth, tumbled from his high estate and became, as we know, a convicted felon; and "ask for this great deliverer now, and find him" in a convict prison. But there were three candidates in 1857, and where is the third—William Williams? Well, he is still alive, and that is all. He is, however, quite imbecile, and has been for some time, and this is the reason why he did not months ago accept the Chilterns. He cannot accept or reject anything. Thus, of the three candidates who stood for Lambeth in 1857, one is dead, the other dying, and the third worse than dead.

Last week I stood by Cobden's grave—went down to Lavington on a special pilgrimage. I had intended to be at his funeral, and would have been, had not inexorable circumstances hindered. But, when I found that I could not assist at his burial, I resolved that I would certainly, as soon as opportunity offered, see his grave; and on Friday in last week I went. It is a wonderfully beautiful place, this quiet village—a lovelier, indeed, cannot be imagined; and, as I glanced at the grave and at the scenery around, I was glad that this great and good man was buried here rather than in Westminster Abbey or St. Paul's. It is in every way a more suitable resting-place for one who, though an active, energetic, brave warrior in the battle of life, was yet as simple, and unpretending, and unambitious as a rustic child. I am told that he expressed a wish to be buried here, by the side of his son. But whether he did or did not, his wishes could be gathered from his life. He refused all worldly honours when living, and could not have wished that they should be heaped upon him after his death. Dunford, where Cobden lived, is not in the parish of Lavington, but in Heyshott, some mile and a half from Lavington. I did not go to Dunford; I shrank from going, even only to look at the outside of the house. For a long time Dunford ought to be sacred as a sanctuary of sorrow. I fear, though, that it will not be. I know the English sightseers too well to hope that the privacy of Cobden's house will be respected long. Indeed, I have already heard of one gentleman who boasts that he got inside and saw the library, and this only a week after the funeral. Mrs. Cobden and her family were not there. They had just left for town. Were they driven away by the setting in of the plague of tourists? I would fain hope not; but I should not be surprised to learn that they were; for they are a pestilent, impudent race, these tourists. The tenant of Wordsworth's house at Rydal told me last autumn that nothing but a lock will keep them out of his dwelling. More than once they have bolted into his dining-room, uninvited, whilst he and his family were at dinner; and on one occasion he had to remove by force a man, in the garb of a gentleman, who had opened the front door and wandered into the kitchen.

Those gentlemen who think that it will be impossible to "reconstruct the Union" should bear in mind that there was, when the rebellion began, a respectable minority in most of the seceding States against secession. In Georgia, the Legislature passed the ordinance of secession by 208 votes against 89. In Mississippi, the numbers were—yeas, 84; nays, 15. In Louisiana—yeas, 118; nays, 17. Here the ordinance was submitted to the people, when the numbers were—For Secession, 20,448; against, 17,296. In the Alabama Legislature, 61 voted for the ordinance of secession and 39 against. In Arkansas, the ordinance was defeated by 39 to 35; but the people, when appealed to, reversed the decision by 27,412 against 15,826. In Texas, secession was carried in the Legislature by 166 yeas against 7 nays; and, on an appeal to the people, the vote was ratified by 34,794 against 11,235. In the North Carolinas there was no vote taken in the Chamber; but the people, on the proposition for a convention, decided against it by 4733 noes to 46,671 yeas. In Tennessee the people voted no convention, in opposition to the Legislature, by 67,360 to 54,156; but secession was ultimately carried by 104,019 against 47,238. In the Virginian Legislature the ordinance of secession was passed in secret session—yeas, 88; nays, 55; one excused and eight not voting. I have taken these figures from "The Political History of the United States of America during the Great Rebellion from November 6, 1860, to July 4, 1864," &c., by Edward M. Pherson, Clerk of the House of Representatives of the United States. This is a very valuable work, full of State documents and reports of proceedings in the various seceding States; and as occasion may offer I will, with your permission, send you some extracts.

That gallant old soldier and kind-hearted gentleman, Sir de Lacy Evans, has given £500 to the Cobden Testimonial fund.

Within an hour or two after the dreadful intelligence that President Lincoln was assassinated reached the House of Commons on Wednesday, an address to Mr. Adams, the American Minister, was written; and before the House had broken up, at 5.30, more than fifty members—many Conservatives amongst them—had signed it, and probably some hundreds of signatures will be appended before this appears in print. Mr. Speaker was the first to receive the news of this appalling tragedy. Somebody sent him a printed slip, in an envelope. It was not, however, fully believed until Mr. W. E. Forster brought a confirmation of it from the American Embassy.

I attended the opening of the sale of the sketches of the late Mr. Leech. The impression upon my mind, from the works generally, was that Mr. Leech did not, in the ordinary sense of the word, "sketch" at all. The merest indication—what artists call scribble—of a face or a group illustrating an incident was to him sufficient memorandum until he placed the work upon a block or plate. But these scribbles sold at enormous prices. Four or five of them, framed in a swamping quantity of grey mounting, sold readily at five and six guineas, while the sale-room was yet scarcely one third filled. I heard a bit of dialogue. "Surely these are not dealers' prices?" "No, the swells are making fools of themselves." Perhaps the "swells" were acting upon excellent motives, and knew that to pay highly for these relics was their best way of showing kindly appreciation of a great artist, deceased. As for the more showy objects of the sale, the enlarged cuts from *Punch*, lithographed upon canvas, and touched in oil colours; if any swell should buy one of these, "What will he do with it?" A big caricature, with a legend under it, painted in oil and framed, is no fitting ornament for any particular room in a modern establishment. Only fancy having day after day, and year after year, to read the same joke!

I understand that Mr. G. A. Sala, a day or two since, left London for Algeria, as the special correspondent of a daily contemporary.

## THEATRICAL LOUNGER.

## THE EASTER ENTERTAINMENTS—(concluded).

Mr. Craven's new drama of "One-Tree Hill" is as successful an effort as "Milky White"—which is very high commendation—and should hold the public favour for a longer time. The story is simple, natural, pathetic, and effective, as will be seen from the following brief resumé. The first act occurs on the summit of One-Tree Hill, at Greenwich. Tom Bubble (Mr. Belford) is a weak-minded cad, married to a charming wife. Mrs. Bubble (Miss Milly

Palmer), who is as unpretentious as her husband is vulgar, has selected the hill as the spot to pass the day of the anniversary of her wedding. There they accidentally meet Mr. Foxer, a false friend of Tom—a compound of betting-man, roué, billiard-sharper, and general adventurer. Mr. Foxer's business at so low a place as One-Tree Hill is to propose an elopement with a young heiress named Cecilia Weston (Miss Ada Swanborough). Jack Salt, a Greenwich pensioner aged seventy-three (Mr. Craven), has been the medium of communication between the lovers. But Mr. Foxer's hopes are frustrated by the timely arrival of Cecilia's youthful guardian, Mr. Ryce (Mr. Parselle), from the West Indies. Tom Bubble is a ne'er-do-weel, who believes himself to be the heir to a large property in the West Indies. Mr. Salt introduces his friend and messmate Dick White (Mr. James Stoye), an old mulatto, who is discovered to be the heir to the great fortune, his negro mother having been legally married to his father. At the same time Jack Salt finds out that he is Mrs. Bubble's maternal grandfather. The second act takes place in Bubble's house, in Paddington. The same relations subsist between Jack Salt and Dick White that existed between Captain Cuttle and Captain Jack Bunsby of immortal memory. Dick utters platitudes magisterially, and Jack regards him as one inspired. "Two and two are four, Massa Salt," says Dick. "Right you are!" returns Jack, "and what a head for figures you have got!" Dick is not the "almighty coloured person" seen through a transcendental, miscegenation, bird-of-freedom, abolitionist haze; but the real human "article"—the nigger shiftless, lazy, cunning, sensual, and drunken. He fears to trust himself with the proof of his own legitimacy, and confides the certificate of the marriage between his African mother and European father to the care of his admiring friend, who duly stows it away. The admirable mulatto then takes Bubble's child out for a walk. By the artifice of Foxer, who is a creditor of Bubble, the certificate is abstracted, and when the noble old pensioner seeks it, it is gone! Dick returns, helplessly drunk; the child has wandered and fallen into the canal—the "Paddington Rhine;" but all is made right again; the certificate is recovered, the child is not drowned, Foxer is punished; Mr. Ryce is betrothed to his high-spirited ward, who, by a recently-found will turns out to be the heiress of the great property; and Dick is pensioned, with an allowance for "bacca!" For the way in which all this is effected, I must refer my readers to the boxes of the Strand theatre with the most entire confidence in their gratitude for the recommendation. "One-Tree Hill" is an excellent domestic drama with a wholesome moral, well worked out. The characters are well defined and contrasted—not with that coarse sort of contrast too often exhibited on our stage, that paints in black and white and uses no gradations of colour, but finely and delicately. The dialogue is unforced, and the incidents succeed each other with the rapidity necessary for the interest of the story. The "Craven" dramas are not destined for a mere ephemeral popularity, but will hold the stage for many years to come. The author's old pensioner was a dramatic portrait executed with great fidelity and vigour, and Mr. Stoye's mulatto was true to the life. Such a pair may often be seen hobbling and smoking in the neighbourhood of Greenwich Hospital. The two billiard-room haunting "cads" received full justice from Messrs. Belford and James, and Mr. Parselle was the most gentleman-like of guardians. Miss Ada Swanborough made a very impulsive and wilful young heiress; and Miss Milly Palmer, as the too-devoted wife, a Titania of everyday life, as blind as loving, acted with the unobtrusive earnestness and grace which have already secured her so large a share of public favour. Mr. Burnand's charming little *extravaganza* of "Patient Penelope; or, The Return of Ulysses," which had been revived for Easter, concludes the performances. Mr. Stoye playing the returned hero.

It would appear that Mr. Burnand "*ne pouvait se consoler du départ d'Ulysse*" from the playbills; for the same story forms the subject of his Easter piece at the St. James's. The space assigned me will not permit me to enter into any details of the *extravaganza*; I must therefore content myself by saying that Miss Charlotte Saunders appears as three single gentlemen rolled into one—Jupiter, Louis Napoleon, and Napoleon I.—and acts and dances in her own inimitable manner; that Telemachus is seen at the early age of one month, and that we have *Cupid en culottes*—a costume to which deity is unaccustomed—Mercury attired as an Oxford coxswain, and Calypso so charming that we wonder more than ever at the remarkable conduct of Ulysses. The most noticeable feature on Easter Monday night was the appearance of Mr. F. Robson, the son of the late Mr. Robson. The new actor is very young, and remarkably like his father in feature, figure, and expression; so like that, as he lay stretched upon the shore of Calypso's hospitable island, as he sang and danced and gave some of his father's well-known effects, shrugs, starts, transitions, and short spasmodic gurgles in the throat, he almost frightened me. "How like! how very like!" were words that passed from lip to lip. The assumption of the hoarse voice and shuffling gait of Jem Baggs startled all who recollected our late eminent comedian—and, indeed, what playgoer does not? Young Mr. Robson evinced marked ability, and the very least that can be said by the most captious critic is that he gives every promise, when his powers shall be matured, of being a second Robson of the Olympic.

I forgot to mention some time ago that a handsome piece of plate had been presented by the members of the Drury Lane orchestra to their conductor, Mr. John Barnard.

The foundation-stone of a new theatre was last week laid by Lord Londesborough, in Humber-street, Hull.

## FINE ARTS.

## THE OLD WATER-COLOUR GALLERY.

WHILE it numbers such names as it does amongst its members, it would be quite impossible for the Old Water-Colour Society's Exhibition to be altogether bad. But it cannot be disguised that this year, in spite of the excellence of many of the pictures—chiefly, we are bound to add, those of the younger members—the general standard is somewhat below that of previous years. We can, indeed, hardly avoid a belief that some strange fatality attends the older members of such societies, and perhaps all artists. It appears as if too often, when they have by the labour of half a life-time acquired the secrets of their art, some spell, like that which Vivien cast upon Merlin, entralls them—the hand loses its cunning, the eye its appreciation of colours and harmonies; and hence the laurels of the exhibition are left to be won by the younger members. Is it possible that it is with art as it is with a single picture—that by too long and close application the eye loses its power of judging and the hand fails to work out the desired effect? Whatever may be the cause, however, it is only too true that many to whose pictures we had been looking forward disappointed us sadly.

At the same time it must not be forgotten that the tone of the Old Society is so high, and it is so free, as a rule, from the vices of picture-making, that an exhibition of less than the usual excellence as compared with its predecessors holds a high place, notwithstanding, when ranked with other galleries.

Mr. F. Shields, one of the latest admitted associates, is a very decided acquisition to the society. There are an earnest truth and a delicacy and grace in his pictures which remind us of the higher specimens of the French school of painters. "Desire is Stronger than Fear" (195) is strongly marked with these excellences. Two little girls, shrinking together to accumulate a small capital of courage, are buying of a queer, uncouth pedlar, whose grimaces and wild raga inspire terror in the hearts of the little purchasers. "The Pop Gun" (297) is a charming little painting, and the pose of the little girl cutting the loaf so laboriously in "Eleven o'Clock a.m." (306) is peculiarly graceful and childlike. "The Baby Cart" (277) is also very clever, though it is just a thought unsatisfactory in the painting of that most difficult object to paint—the baby. We have this year only one picture by Mr. Walker, and a fine one, although it is impossible to help wishing that his place on the screens knew him not. His single picture, "Autumn" (62), is probably intended as a companion to the delicious one of "Spring," exhibited

last year. The graceful position of the girl leaning against the apple-tree and turning round to watch the approach of the old man, who, we suppose, typifies winter, is finely drawn, and the colouring is full of beautiful harmonies and contrasts. There is little room for improvement in the painting of the grass, which goes back with life-like reality, but the painting of the wall background up to the figure and tree deprives some branches of the latter of their proper relief. The handling of the flesh is beyond praise.

As usual, Mr. Smallfield has been an industrious worker, and contributes some splendid specimens. "Margherita" (48) and "Tartini" (204) are painted with infinite skill: in the latter, unless the likeness of the composer be from an authentic portrait, we could have wished for a more pleasing face. A delicious bit of colour is "Winter on the Appennines and in the Arno Valley" (232), where the bright anemones and crocuses gleam among the fresh green grass or peep from the snow. "No Song" (316) and "No Supper" (304) are not to be forgotten either. Mr. Watson, like Mr. Walker, confines himself to a single picture this year. It is painted with all the masterly handling and grace which have raised him in a short time to the foremost rank of figure-painters. An old man and a young and lovely girl are singing a "Duet" (104), while the sunlight streams into the room and slants down an old screen: the grouping and treatment speak the painter's skill most unmistakably. Mr. F. Burton is one of those who disappoint us this year. His "Marchesa" (27), a female head, larger than life, is a little flat, though marvellously delicate in handling. In this picture we regret to see that he appears to be slightly infected with an infantile disorder at present rather prevalent in artistic circles, and which may be described as the "Burne Jones fever." "Clematis" (247) is more in his old style, and is therefore better.

Mr. Birket Foster this year deserts the woods and glades for the "warm sea-scented beach," which he paints with infinite skill and feeling. "On the Beach, Hastings" (12), is remarkable for a vivid realisation of a peculiar aspect of the sea which have never before been attempted. "The Shipmer" (242) and "The Swing" (314) are excellent specimens of his style. Mr. Foster is evidently turning his attention to figure-subjects, and we congratulate him on the success he achieves in his new line. Mr. Joseph Nash also attempts a similar change of subject; but we think he would do well to return to architectural paintings. Mr. F. Taylor is another who is changing his style of subjects; but to no better purpose than Mr. Nash. Mr. Lundgren's "Arab Girl" (310) is a clever study, and the same may be said of his "Posada" (115), though it is hardly so good as some pictures of his we remember to have seen.

"The Pattern, Connemara" (126), is the best specimen of Mr. Topham's style we have met with; but there is room for much improvement in it, especially in the faces, which all wear one unvaried smile. Mr. Riviere's contributions are not the best of his that we have seen; and Mr. Alfred Frapp's pictures are damaged by a trickiness and the breaking up of the colours into patches. We may draw attention to "Arabs of the Common" (82) as an example of this fault.

Mr. Burne Jones, to whom the world is indebted for the infantile disorder to which we alluded above, is in full force, with ungraceful and incorrect drawing and muddied and unpleasant colouring. It is difficult to believe that he can really labour under the impression that any one's face (out of a painted window) ever is of an opaque clay colour. Nor can we believe that he has ever met with people (except as before in the narrow, lofty lights of a painted window) who were twenty heads and upwards in height. It is really lamentable to see a young artist, whose works here and there show gleams of reason and painting, utterly spoiled by an affectation, which has been aggravated by injudicious praise and flattering imitation. In his "Astrologia" (18) the painting of the glass globe is clever in the extreme, but the female, who has been repeated by the artist *ad nauseam*, is feeble and unnatural. The method of work, which leaves the background like a coarse oil painting, does not improve the pictures. "Blind Love" (89) is tame, devoid of fancy and imagination. "Cupid and Delight" (97) has nothing characteristic, and might have any other title. "The Enchantment of Nimue" (230) is marked by conceit in lieu of fancy, and is in parts unintelligible. But perhaps the most extraordinary painting by this eccentric artist is "Green Summer" (105), a group of women attired in green, which would be the better for a wash, sitting in a row, with their backs to the spectator, on some very sooty grass.

Mr. John Gilbert has nothing on the walls to equal his splendid pictures of last year; but there are great vigour and fine colour in his "Cromwell in Battle" (152), though we could wish he had been more careful to preserve the likeness to the great hero. Mr. Walter Goodall exhibits some very pleasing pictures. "Labour and Love" (38) and the "Eel-stage" (180) are deserving of a passing word of praise.

Mr. Carl Haag's picture of the ford of Glen Tilt (73), painted by Royal command, is like all pictures manufactured under such circumstances, far from satisfactory. His "Baalbeck" (129) is more in his old style; but, on the whole, he must be numbered with the old friends who disappoint us. Mr. Samuel Read exhibits some cathedral interiors, which at times remind us of Roberts. The "Interior of the Church, Tamise, Flanders" (183) is perhaps the finest specimen of his powers.

We miss in Mr. Dodgson's pictures this year the vigour of colour and the harmony which have hitherto distinguished them. Mr. Branwhite is not seen to the best advantage either, though he has some very charming pictures on the walls.

The finest landscapes in the gallery are those of Mr. Naftel, who seems so perfectly at home with Nature, and such a master of his art, that his paintings have almost photographic fidelity and might rank as miniatures of the gracious Presence which fills the world with delight. The "Old Moat, Ivy Castle, Guernsey" (68), is a miraculous transcript of loveliness; and the same may be said of the "Fairies' Haunt" (159), a perfect gem, and "The Swallow" (164). But to mention all that is good would be simply to enumerate all the pictures by this talented artist in the gallery. Mr. Boyce is remarkable for his vivid and forcible realisation and delicious harmonies of colour. He appears to have devoted himself chiefly to the discovery of latent beauties in the quaint old town of Newcastle-on-Tyne. The "Black Gate" (96) is especially fine, as is also the "View from the Rabbit Banks" (128). The "View from an Upper Window in Gizeh" (228) is also remarkable for fine effects and skilful treatment.

Mr. Alfred Hunt exhibits no sign of falling off. His view of "Durham" (37), though not altogether pleasing, is very finely done. His views of "Ambleside Mill" (52), of "Gowbarrow Park" (289), and "Stock Gill" (291) are all worthy of the warmest praise. Mr. Rosenberg still maintains his high position. The "Dell in the Wood" (84), "The Thames at Marlow" (229), and "Pangbourne" (251) may be mentioned as among his best paintings. Mr. Duncan's seascapes are as fine as ever, though in "The Storm" (24) we are tempted to question the correctness of the painting of the clouds. Mr. S. Jackson still shows great inequality. His "Summer Afternoon by the Sea" (17) displays his worst faults of style, the "Hulks on the Tamar" (77) his best. Mr. Palmer's richness of colour is unabated; nor has Mr. Callow's hand forgotten its cunning. Mr. Whittaker has some fine specimens of his style; as has also Mr. Alfred P. Newton, though at times marred by unevenness.

Mr. Davidson and Mr. David Cox are well represented, though the latter has still considerable scope for improvement in his style. Mr. Gasineau, Mr. Collingwood Smith, and Mr. Richardson are rather remarkable for the number of their works than for any special excellences in them. Mr. Brittan Willis's cattle are, of course, all worthy of the highest commendation for drawing and solid colour, which at times attains almost to the brilliancy of oil.

ITALIAN PATRIOTS.—General Fanti, whose death has been recently announced (says the *Avenir National*), appointed General Claidini to be guardian of his children, whose whole fortune amounts to only 1000*fr.* a year. The fact that the deceased, who had been Minister of War and Dictator of Emilia, should have left no more proves his disinterested patriotism. Nor is he the only one of modern Italians who have acted in this manner. Gioberti died in a garret at Paris; and the families of Finelli and Farini, being left without fortune, have been pensioned by the State.



## OUR FEUILLETON.

## THE DOCTRINE OF COMPENSATION.

It is wholly impossible that there can be a reader—that is, a real reader, and not a mere *flâneur* through prettily-printed pages—who does not found himself, as it were, on particular passages of favourite authors. "What does the poet say?" may be heard every hour of the twenty-four. The poets are always at the top of the tree. "According to Burke" is all very well, but then it goes no further than "according;" but what "Milton expresses," or "Pope lays down," is infallible. Possibly it is the stately dressing alone that gives mightiness to the idea—just as Mme. Tussaud's "Coronation Robes of George IV." are precisely the only evidences that we have that George IV. could do no wrong. The stateliness of rhythm, as well as of robe, may cover much weakness, sophistry, or falsehood. Doubtless, those dusty trappings in Baker-street—outward significances of eternal righteousness—covered, but scarcely concealed, a good (Englishman's) share of the vices and the sins of this world. Doubtless, many a well-turned line has launched many a well-turned lie upon the illusioned world. But then, as Bishop Warburton said of the Bible, the poet is like a fiddle—he can be made to play very different tunes. Certain it is, that the irritable ones do say very contradictory things, and perhaps seldom more than when on such a subject as the doctrine of compensation in the general scheme. Without ransacking the Anthology "from Chaucer to Akenside," the Alpha and Omega of provincial bookshelves, it is quite sufficient, and indeed no more than reverential courtesy, to go to modern head-quarters—the Laureate himself. For instance, from Tennyson, take "Will Waterproof":—

Let there be thistles—there are grapes;  
If old things, there are new;  
Ten thousand broken lights and shapes,  
Yet glimpses of the true.

Here you yet compensation pure and simple. "Will Waterproof" is, emphatically, a jolly poem—there is no other expression. There is a fine big man drinking not too much wine, and enjoying the world, which he delights to take just as he finds it; knowing all the time that all the combined Fates could not assist him to take the world in any other way than he finds it, "for all the world." But it is a very everyday, commonplace kind of life. Take for comparison "The Miller's Daughter." Here, to make a prosaic reckoning, are something like two thousand syllables, all brimming over with bliss; and many a man knows that he has been made happy for life by the simple whispering of one. And yet this "long and listless boy," grown old, after seeming to be never tired of telling over his felicities, each bead giving all the serenity of a prayer, calmly says—

Have I not found a happy earth?  
I least should breathe a thought of pain;  
Would God relieve me from my birth,  
I'd almost live my life again.

Provoking! What does he mean? Possibly he is getting tired of happiness. *Toujours perdrix*. Or, possibly, the old line is still haunting the brain—

Gaiety without eclipse  
Wearieth me, May Lillian.

Mary Ann Hoggins, Countess of Exeter, is poetically said to have died from the effects of over-happiness and undue honour, and Mr. Dickens's cobbler was "ruined by having money left him." But to sneer at a life, and consent to go through another turn of it after very much providential pressing, just because that life happens to be one long path of roseleaves, is more than ordinarily contented minds can understand. In fact, despite "Will Waterproof," he recognises a want of compensation somewhere. He says,

There's somewhat flows to us life,  
But more is taken quite away.

What can it be? Possibly he is delicately veiling the fact that little Alice's hair is infinitely more red and decidedly less auburn than we might be pardoned for presuming it to be, and her eyes somewhat less illumined by summer soul-lightning, and less addicted to making his own orbs roll, than we find them throughout stanzas five to ten. The fact is, our friend is a trifle too happy—listless; he does not know what he wants. Anything for a change; and, besides, some people prefer roughing it in this life. "Thank my stars, for that!" said the sailor, sucking in the London fog from the Pool of the Thames. "No more of them confounded blue skies for me!" It may be that the Laureate was really "maudlin moral" in the first instance. At all events, he is "across the walnuts and the wine" again in the second. The *in vino veritas* confuses the case, unless Truth can tell no lie, but lay her hand upon her heart and swear white to be as dark as Egypt. But Truth lives in a well, and not in a wine-cellar; and so absolutely nothing can be made of the whole matter.

There are many kinds of compensation; the great little pleasures cheaply purchased at the price of life-long toil; the less tangible happinesses which not unfrequently cast a radiance over the severest miseries; whilst the personal deformities and domestic afflictions so often chequering the lives of the great may be likened to compensations upside down. The really abandoned and hopeless are very few. It is easy, certainly, for the morose and misanthropic to pile the pyramid of their griefs and wrongs a thousand times along the complete set of fingers. Nothing can be easier than thus to build a dungeon in the air, to stick in the requilate skeletons, and listen to the clanking of the darbies. Nothing easier—except to widen the lips, demolish the whole edifice with a burst of laughter, and speedily build up in its place the most airy fairy palace ever presided over by an enchanted Princess. Hot water applied below the eyes in the morning removes all bilious vision for the entire day. It is necessary to avail oneself of Art as well as of Nature. Keep the punkah going in the dog days, and don't forget to stir up the fire when March conjures an east wind. Those things are intended as compensation. But, after all, it is the custom of the perennial grumbler to mistake everything for the worst, and insist that there can be no remedy. There is but little hope for them, though much may be done with the simply selfish and splenetic. People groan at the heat, when, if they would but consider for ten seconds, they would probably find that they were enjoying it excessively. So with winter; so with sea-bathing, and other "pickles," as Porson used to term the operation. For my part, I do not think that ever a child's new frock suffered the torture of a tear but what there was the brightest possible ribbon to cover the misfortune with glory. *Dulce et decorum*, &c. Radel would much rather have died than not have enjoyed that first, last, and only sight and embrace of the Countess of Tripoli. These were compensations, and very seldom are we without such. When Jones has been struck at the club, without answering a word, how sweet are his reflections—whilst fitting on the court plaister—that he has been endowed with sufficient fortitude to restrain his passions, and not give blow for blow! Amarantha never broke a heart yet, save from an innate consciousness of the duty of curing the wound of another. There is no man so ugly that he is not perfectly conscious of his redeeming point. Wilkes was only a quarter of an hour after the handsomest man in the room. He could talk fascinatingly. It may be confidently laid down that a magnificently-turned leg and the smallpox go hand in hand. The plainest girl in the family is always remarkable for her domestic virtues, and is especially fond of her mother. The father, in Sydney Smith's essay, ruined his country, but never lifted a hand against his boys. Of course, there is a virtue to atone for every vice, a gleam of happiness to dissipate every gloom. If Aemodius would condescend for once to lend us the dignity of his wings, we would look not only into houses but into human hearts. There would be melancholy young griffins taking out their skeletons and polishing them up to keep them fresh. Skeleton locks of hair, in faded ribbons, to be subjected to the skeleton of a kiss. Old portraits, that rattle in their shrunken cases ominously; and, say, one glove, a very small glove indeed, but of great importance to Mr. Misanthrope, as it is actually the chief link in the chain of contact. Skeletons and ghosts of old letters are the

best talkers in the world, but it must be confessed that their voices are somewhat hollow. But observe how in an instant the cupboard is locked up, the key moving in the lock with only one harsh grating to mar for a moment the happy music of the spheres. Gather ye rosebuds, or sing tavern songs? There are plenty of such compensations; only, sometimes, like the inkstand in "Oliver Twist," they are so immediately under one's very nose that it is the easiest thing in the world to look right over them and catch the eye of the phantom again.

The best pity should be reserved for the great lives that might have been so much more pleasant but for little accidents and sorrows. Byron's foot was doubtless the occasion of many melodious poetic feet. Sir Walter was above that kind of thing, and made his crutch as graceful as a palm-tree. Pope must have suffered hideously from his hunch. The most aristocratic of his enemies the satirists did not scruple at the foulest personality, although they did not get on very well with the only thing they could find to attack. Were these legs and backs purely accidental, or Providential, and Lady Mary right?—

But Nature, which does all things well ordain,  
Deform'd the body, but enrich'd the brain.

It would be far more pleasant to virtuous minds if these great ones who have so charmed and instructed us had had no upside-down compensations of this kind, or any other. It is pleasant to shut the eyes to history, and see things in our own way. So it is easy enough to see that Milton married only once, "and they lived happily ever after." How well he retained his sight, and what a fortune he made by "Paradise Lost"! Pope's stately form is a good indication of his literary style. Andrew Marvell was gormandising over turtle and venison when the King's messenger invaded the stately banqueting-hall with the bribe. And so forth. Everybody who has deserved it has been supremely blest; and everybody who pleases may see that every *couleur* is *de rose*. A little less earthliness of one kind, and a little more of another, alone are wanting.

Lose who may, I still can say,  
Those who win Heaven blest are they.

But the thing is not to be too particular about your kind of heaven. Select an everyday elysium and pursue it rapidly. Take all the colours together, and with strong gyrations all will make light.

The well-known phrase, "As many a better man has been before you," is a favourite expression of compensation. To have somebody, and a better man than yourself, to be subjected to the process of being dragged through the mire might to some extent smooth the path to the gallows—at least, for those who persist in finding much rough obstacle on the road. To couch like Horace tends materially to take away the bitter taste of squills and relieve the throbs of the tortured pleura. The position of immortal Maro to the bedridden brings with it all the elastic inspirations of green fields; and the bitterness of death itself loses its sting when facing the fact that Homer and Shakespeare succumbed. On the other hand, the sorrows and accidents of the great frequently bring to the lowly anything but the spirit of compensation. Many a garret is rendered more wretched still by an involuntary remembrance of Chatterton. The "difficult journey to a splendid tomb" might often be cheered but for certain events having gone as they have gone. The wild eye might have softened could its owner but have known that gentle Goldsmith had no row at Trinity, took a double first, ate and drank of the daintiest, was ordained, did decipher the written inscriptions, never wore peach colour or wrote history, never tumbled into a tank, never wanted a guinea, married most happily, and died at a ripe age, leaving enormous legacies to a large circle of friends. But even then, according to the "doctrine of compensation," there would have been plenty of dark blurs across the effulgent scene; and very properly too, for everybody knows that there is no durability in gold, unless it be tainted with some very gross alloy. But the whole is a broad and individual matter, and not to be settled by the infallibility of poets who can write both sides of the question. E. F. B.

## THE WATER-BABIES AT SNARESBROOK.

WHEN that sweet little cherub who is traditionally and lyrically represented as sitting up aloft to look out for the life of poor Jack, is relieved by the next watch, and makes a short excursion for the purpose of stretching his wings, it may reasonably be inferred that he hovers lovingly over the neighbourhood of Snarebrook, in Essex, and perches occasionally on the tall spiral tower of that magnificent building where 136 little ones, the orphans of merchant seamen, are maintained with loving care.

It may have occurred to the cherub in his flights to that tree-embowered part of the country near Epping Forest that in this island, whose rightness and tightness are so dependent on the exertions of the sailor, the sailor's orphan becomes everybody's care, and that, of all destitute British babies, the water-baby has, perhaps, the most urgent claim.

This reflection was at least suggested to me as I stepped on to the platform of the new Snarebrook station, on the Great Eastern Railway, on Monday in the present week; and its force was not diminished when I learned that the building whose roof and tower I could see above the trees a short distance down the Chigwell-road had been built to accommodate not only 136 but 250 inmates, and could easily be extended for the reception of 200 boys and 100 girls, many of whom had been left without either father or mother, and all of whose fathers had done their duty in the merchant service and had died without having been able to provide for their families. The limited number of children which the committee of this admirable charity are able to admit to the asylum at present is scarcely more a matter for surprise than the fact that the institution itself was only founded thirty-eight years ago, when, in an ordinary tenement in St. George's-in-the-East, from five to ten orphan boys were received. Two years later (in 1829) a similar house was taken for the reception of girls, and both establishments were enlarged, until the number of inmates became so large as to make it necessary to rent a larger house. A suitable building for the purpose was discovered in the Bow-road, where boys and girls, to the number of 120, were received under the same roof in a large house standing in its own grounds; but, as the place was only held on a short lease, it was deemed advisable to commence a building fund in order ultimately to secure a freehold and an appropriate establishment for so useful an asylum. This was set on foot in 1850; and the appeal of the promoters having been liberally responded to by gentlemen, and it may also be said by ladies, connected with the shipping interest in London, a plot of ground at Snarebrook, seven acres and a half in extent, was purchased in 1858, and the present building was commenced in 1860; the foundation-stone being afterwards laid by the late Prince Consort, whose name is peculiarly associated with this asylum as the last building of the kind which he inaugurated. On the 10th of July, 1862, the orphans were brought to their new home, and since that time the grounds and much of the interior fitting have been completed. The committee, the architect, the contractors, and the patrons have done their work well. It is not too much to say that if those who are blessed with the means to help the sailors' orphans will do their part of the work in a similar spirit, the subscription-list will soon warrant the managers of the charity in filling the spare wards with little clean white beds and in training up twice the present number of children into healthy, honest English men and women.

It is to what the institution I am about to describe has effected and may yet effect that my present attention is to be directed, however; and, as I stand here by the iron gate in the high railing enclosing the grounds, I am convinced that the managers have begun well by the discharge of a wise liberality with regard to their building. It is certainly a splendid edifice, its broad frontage and North Italian architecture being relieved by the handsome stone dressings and courses of coloured bricks, which are scarcely likely to be turned to a dingy hue in that pure forest air. As soon as the blue jacketed, sailor-looking young gate-porter who receives my cart has conducted me to the entrance, I am received by the matron, who, without having expected my visit, at once invites me to go over the various departments of the institution, and, as a good

beginning, takes me into the boys' school-room, where about a hundred blue-jacketed and equally sailor-like young scholars are occupied with their slates, under the care of one of the two masters—himself with a sort of sea-air upon him, and a salt-water-cut about his blue dress. The boys rise as I go in, but I delight to notice that they do so voluntarily, and with an independently civil manner, which again impresses me with a sense of something sailor-like. Having risen, they sit down again, and go on with their work quite in an unconcerned way, leaving me to go into another corridor where the girls' school is held, and where two score blue-clad maidens, the youngest of them pretty little creatures of seven or eight years old, are busy with their needles.

In all the rooms, wards, and corridors, except the committee-room and some of the private apartments, the brick walls are left just as they were built, evenly faced with grey stock bricks, without colour or plaster, the uniformity being relieved by bands of grey or purple bricks and cut red brick mouldings and window arches. The great height and noble size of the different apartments render this arrangement far preferable to any attempt at plastering or colouring the walls; and the large light windows, combined with the toned hue of the brick walls, give the whole place a delightful effect of cleanliness and ventilation without the chilly sensation which is somehow always connected with wall composition, and even with any but expensive and richly-coloured papers in such large spaces. The corridors, both on the ground floor and in the upper stories, leading to the dormitories, are brick vaulted and fireproof; the woodwork throughout the building being of varnished pine, without paint of any kind. The dormitories are the most airy and spacious, and, at the same time, the most easily regulated with regard to temperature, that I have ever seen in any similar institution, and are fitted with capital baths and lavatories; while the hospital, which occupies a large apartment on the upper floor, with a nurse's room, and detached or inclosed beds for severe cases of illness, is admirably contrived both for the completeness of its arrangements and its separation from the rest of the building. This hospital, however, has not been used in any case of epidemic or other infectious disease. The children here are singularly free from even small ailments—a condition which the pure air of that open country, the perfect ventilation, and the abundant supply of good food and good water, will very well explain. Pure air, pure water, and ventilation may all be appreciated by a visit to the top of the building under the main spire, where the two great tanks are placed for the supply of the establishment, and where you can stand, as it were, in the lantern of a lighthouse, looking out not over sea, but above the tree-tops of that woody country towards Chigwell, Woodford, Wanstead, and Epping. The boys occupy the south wing and the girls the western portion of the building, the two portions being separated by the apartments of the matron and reached by distinct staircases. On my first arrival I notice that on a couple of trees are slung two trapezes, and I can now see some of the boys preparing for cricket in a piece of ground at the back. The girls have a large space for outdoor games in front of the building. Besides these, however, there is an arched cloister under the boys' school-room, which is a famous play-place for wet weather, and where their band of fifes and drums has plenty of marching room; for the boys have a famous band, and some of the elder girls with a taste for music are taught the piano by the indefatigable secretary, one of whose pupils, I understand, has become so proficient that she plays the organ in the chapel.

This chapel, which is in the same exterior style as the main building, although detached from it, is one of the most charming edifices to be seen near London. It was built entirely at the expense of Lady Morrison, and dedicated by her "to the glory of God and the use of the Merchant Seamen's Orphan Asylum;" and all its beautiful appointments are evidences that, besides the large sum of money she has devoted to the general fund, this benevolent woman has added the chapel as a fitting crown to that labour of love which have constituted her the mother of these little orphans, who regard her with much gratitude and affection. From the high-polished pine roof over the altar to the sparkling granite and marble of the lectern, the fittings of this sanctuary are in complete harmony with the rest of that handsome institution, which, if it seem almost too imposing, has been raised by the special contributions of those who desired not to withhold their hands.

Of the kitchen, with its lifts to the great refectory and other rooms above, there is at least this much to say, that, with a tolerably wide experience of kitchens in public and charitable establishments, I am delighted to see that there is obviously no desire to substitute the mere cold, unmeaning mechanical appliances of modern culinary science for that air of comfort, that whisper of home, which is the chief charm of any kitchen worthy of the name. There are, it is true, great iron steamers and boilers with patent lever-fitted lids, but there is no terrible evidence of everlasting boiling, and there are evidences of pies and puddings as well as roast meats. Above all, there is a glorious dresser, bearing a still more glorious dinner service, which, although the children are served on neat metal and white enamelled bowls and platters, such as one sees in the windows of outfitters' shops, must be a cheerful, homelike, pleasant piece of furniture to every boy and girl going in and out.

On Wednesday of this very week the friends and patrons of the Merchant Seamen's Orphan Asylum dined together at the London Tavern, in order that these little ones may continue to dine, and to sleep, and to learn, till they are old enough to earn dinners for themselves. Two hundred ladies and gentlemen sat down, under the presidency of that good friend to the institution, Mr. Alderman Lusk; and, after hearing even more about the past successes and the present needs of this noble charity than I can tell here, subscribed the sum of £1400, which, gratifying as it is, had need be fifty times as much before the objects of such an asylum can be secured in a manner commensurate with the demands of a maritime country like that in which we live. T. A.

## SCENES OF AUSTRALIAN LIFE AND CHARACTER.

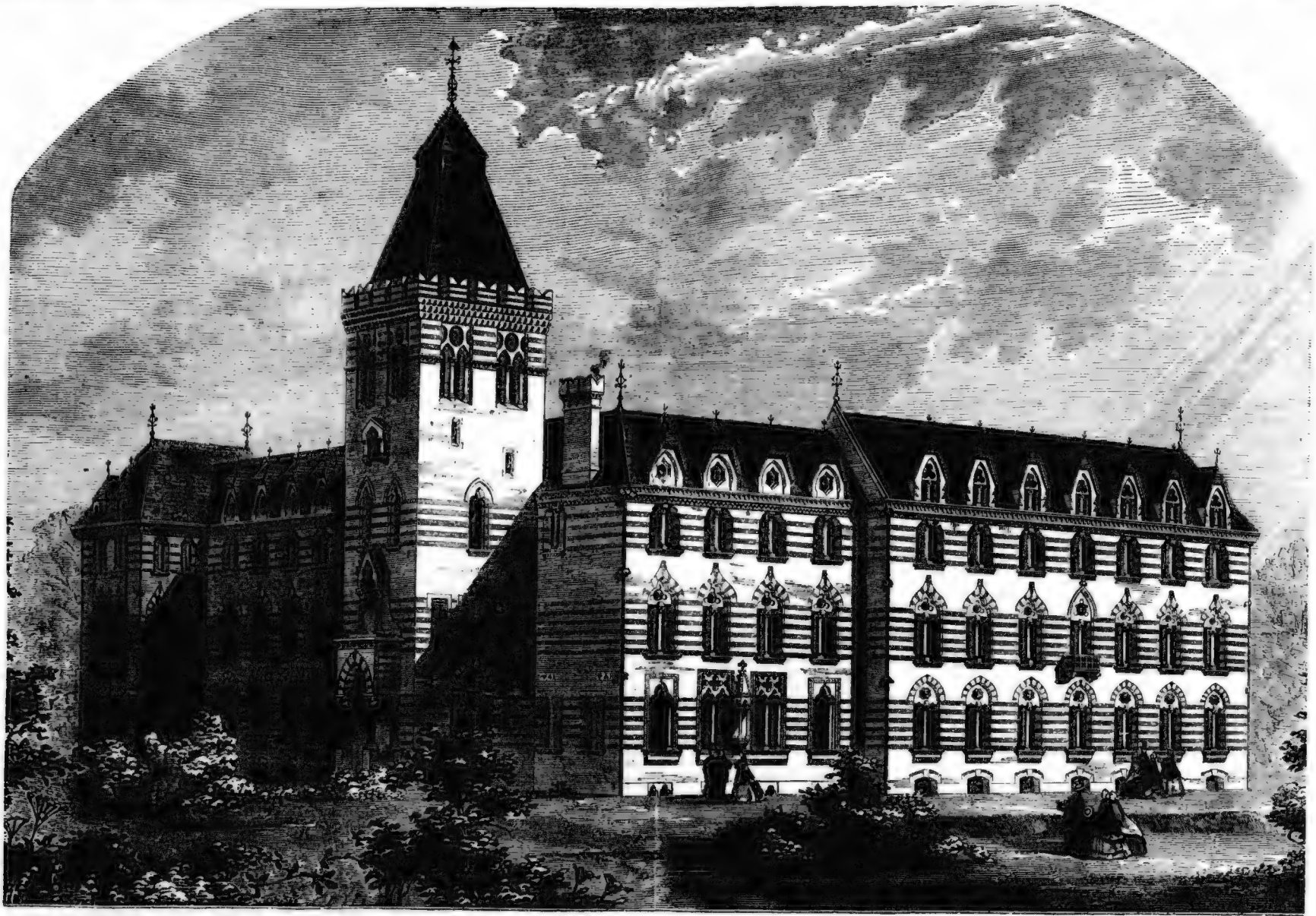
## A SUBSCRIPTION BALL AT THE DIGGINGS.

WITH what an astonished air some of our readers will behold the accompanying Engraving, especially when we come to consider the recherché society connected with a subscription ball in civilised ideas; but a subscription ball at the diggings a few years ago and one in England are two very different things. In England, the title assures one that, to a very great extent, the company will be of a select description; while, at the Australian diggings, it simply means that any one can go who can afford it and possesses a convivial or free-and-easy turn of mind; for woe be to any new chum (the term being used in colonial parlance to signify a fresh arrival in the colony) who, under a false impression conveyed to him through the advertisement of a subscription ball, with an admission of three guineas, arrays himself in his new dress suit of the latest fashion, procured, perhaps, at the West-End just previous to his departure, with an idea proverbial to most young men with West-End notions who resolve to emigrate and drive the pick instead of the pen—viz., that diggers are gentlemanly-looking men, who after a day's digging return to comfortably furnished houses and dress fashionably before proceeding for an evening walk or amusement. Woe, we say, to the feelings of any such mistaken individual; for he will find on his arrival at the ball, that instead of spotless white kids, dress coats, pegtops, &c., he is among a miscellaneous collection of individuals, with, in many instances, a physiognomy and dress in perfect keeping; the male, if not the female portion of the community as well, certainly belonging to the free-and-easy school, and arrayed accordingly. Some have foreheads villainous low, and certainly a wonderful similarity to the class said to have

Left their country for their country's good;

while others take up the remnants of an antiquated wardrobe, as shown by the gentleman with the bristly hair, who is making very spasmodic attempts to look comfortable in gloves too large and pumps too small for him. The music is generally of a decided colonial nature or description, harmony being a kind



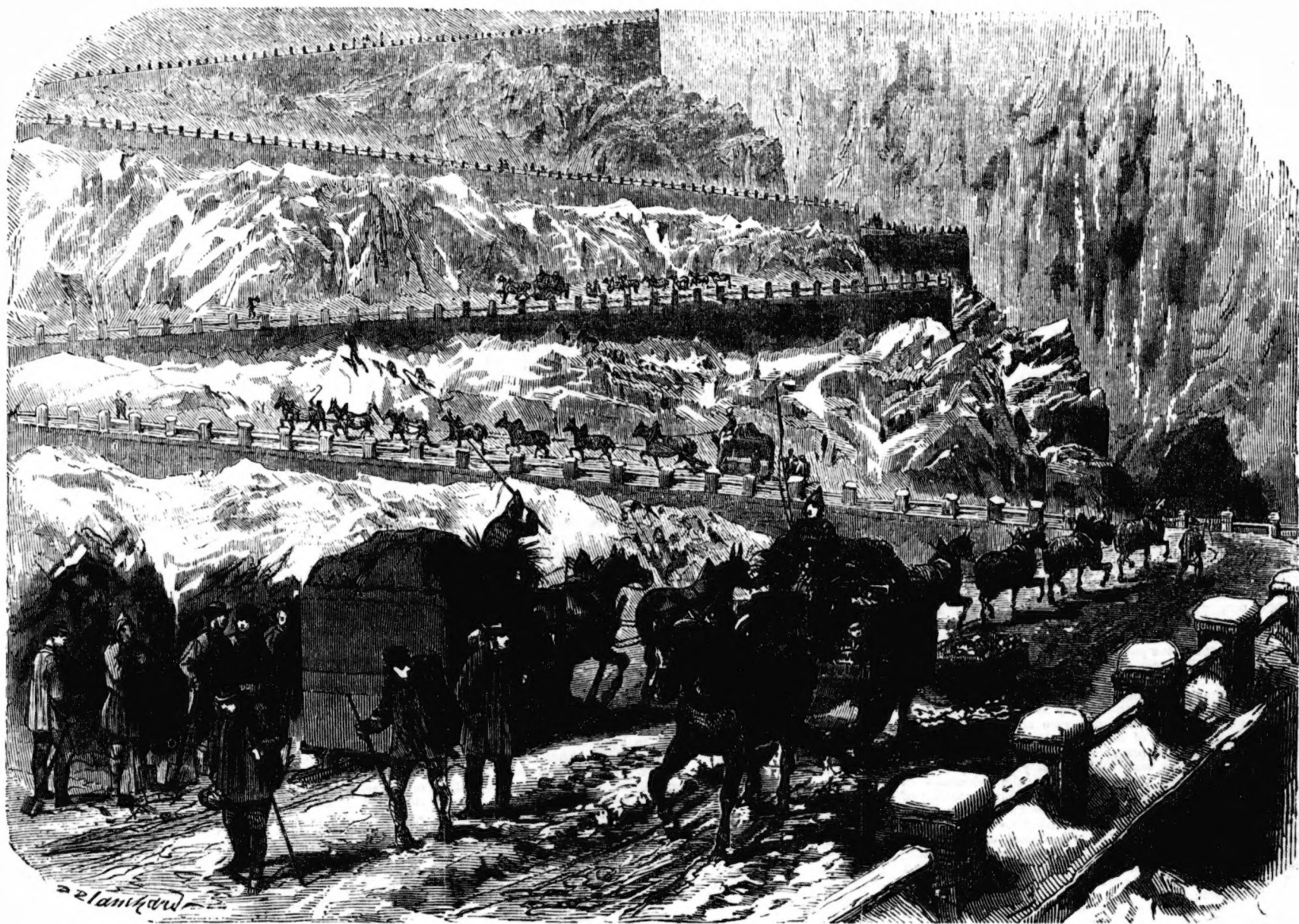


THE MERCHANT SEAMEN'S ORPHAN ASYLUM, SNAR'SBROOK.



SCENES AND SKETCHES OF AUSTRALIAN LIFE: A SUBSCRIPTION BALL AT THE DIGGINGS



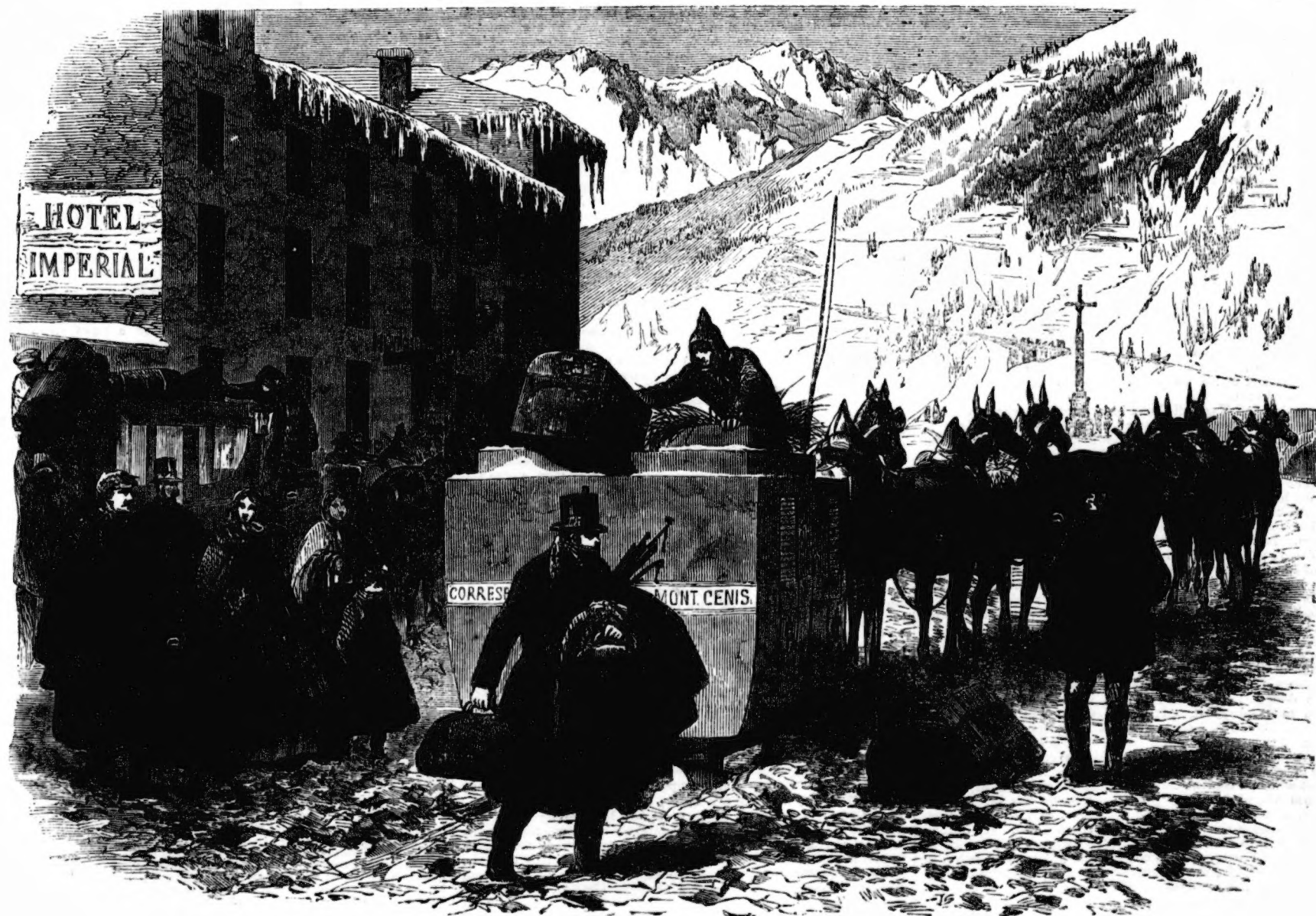


THE PASSAGE OVER MONT CENIS: THE ZIGZAG PATH OVER THE MOUNTAIN.

of secondary consideration, the prevailing taste being akin to that of a person we once heard engaging a band for a ball, who enjoined the leader to be sure and bring plenty of drums and trumpets with him. Pride is entirely dispensed with for the sake of comfort. Every one seems to have made up his mind for

an evening's enjoyment, of course à la Australia. Waiting for an introduction before dancing with a lady is a thing never thought of, for strangers fraternise with a delightful indifference as to whom they are speaking or dancing with. Everybody seems imbued with the idea that he or she is as good, but no better, than the rest of the

company, and altogether forming a group on the real equality principle. Refreshments are not forgotten; in fact, they are, in some instances, of a most expensive character, although certainly not of an elegant description; for instance, a lady and gentleman will occasionally refresh themselves in the ball-room with a bottle of



CHANGING CARRIAGES ON MONT CENIS—SEE PAGE 259.



stout each after a quadrille, varied sometimes with hot brandy and water or a bottle of champagne.

In conveying to our readers this description of a colonial ball, we do not assert that all are carried out in the same manner; neither do we maintain that the visitors comprise such a miscellaneous assembly; for in the large cities, such as Melbourne and Sydney, some of the subscription balls are carried out in a very superior manner; but our sketch is intended to represent a ball among the middle class on the diggings, who, with the lower classes, are looked on as the great important body in Australia; for there are hundreds in the middle class who do not aspire to rank among the élite; not that they are unfitted to do so in a social or pecuniary sense, but simply from the fact that the free-and-easy manners to which they have accustomed themselves on the gold-fields, to a certain extent incapacitates them for enjoyment among society of a more recherché character.

In conclusion, we will assure our readers that a ball such as we have endeavoured to describe is far from an unpleasant affair; for, irrespective of the rough but genuine hospitality experienced, there are many of the best insights into colonial life and character to be obtained. You will perceive, by the enthusiastic manner in which even the roughest and most uncouth-looking drink the toast always proposed—viz., "The Queen"—that there exists a true loyalty in their hearts; also, by the subdued voice, and oftentimes tear-bedimmed eye, that the memory of the loved ones at home is still cherished; and, above all, by the general kind feeling and sentiment expressed, that there often exists a noble heart beneath a rough exterior.

A. A. S.

## THE OPERA.

### "L'AFRICAINNE."

THE great centre of musical interest just now is Paris, where the production of "L'Africaine" is being looked forward to with an eagerness which is only felt in England on the eve of a great ministerial crisis or now and then in very remarkable racing years on the morning of the Derby Day. The Emperor has postponed his visit to Algeria simply that he may be able to hear "L'Africaine" before starting; while the first representation of "L'Africaine" has been postponed because the unlucky ship on which the scenic department of the opera so much depends was not ready on the day originally fixed for its production. But, though the opera has not been formally brought out, we have received an account of a full-dress rehearsal of the work, which was almost of a public character, and from which as good an opinion of the merits of "L'Africaine" may be formed as from one of the public representations, which, according to the latest intelligence, was to have commenced last night (April 28).

The rehearsal began at half-past seven o'clock on Sunday evening and lasted until three o'clock on Monday morning. The theatre was crowded, and among the audience were all the musical and fashionable, and not a few of the political, celebrities of Paris. Meyerbeer could scarcely be prevailed upon to tolerate anyone at his rehearsals, and it had been said that only a few privileged persons would be allowed to be present at the rehearsals of "L'Africaine." At the last moment, however, a large number of invitations were issued; and when it became known that a few hundreds had been asked, a few thousands asked to be asked. The principal subscribers had the use of their boxes allowed them. The other places were given away to writers, musicians, and, ultimately, to whoever had interest and ingenuity enough to get them. When the introduction began there were no vacant seats in any part of the theatre.

The opening scene is somewhere in Portugal. Inez (Mlle. Battu), who has been promised in marriage to an elderly Portuguese Admiral, is secretly attached to the young and handsome Vasco di Gama, and declines to execute the engagement which her father has contracted as her representative. This refusal irritates her father and pains her elderly lover; and the diverse emotions of the three are dramatically expressed in a trio which is the first important piece in the opera. It is preceded, however, by an air for Inez, which at least has the merit of being eminently graceful.

Suddenly it is announced that a distinguished traveller has arrived, and that he has a proposition to make to the Council of State. This is no other than Vasco di Gama (Naudin), beloved of Inez, but not much esteemed at the Portuguese Court. He is allowed to explain, however, that, having been shipwrecked, he has been thrown on the coast of a strange country, that he has discovered an unknown land abounding in treasures, and that, if a ship be entrusted to him, he is ready to return and seize the country in the name of his Sovereign. The Bishops, who seem to have the entire direction of State affairs, declare him to be either a fool or an impostor, and this opinion is vigorously set forth in an episcopal chorus, or *chœur d'évêques*. Vasco di Gama in vain refers to the fact that Christopher Columbus had also some difficulty in getting his countrymen to appreciate him. To prove that he has really been to some sort of *terra ignota* he produces a couple of natives whom he seems to have brought with him as specimens of the indigenous population. One of these natives is Selika (Mlle. Saxe), the "Africaine," after whom the opera is named; the other is Nelusko (Faure), the Africaine's attendant. The Africaine herself is a Queen when she is at home; but she gladly allows herself to be treated by Vasco di Gama like a slave. One thing, however, she will not do. Urged to remain silent by the patriotic and foreigner-hating Nelusko, she refuses to give any information to the Council on the subject of her native land. Vasco is no more than ever looked upon as an unprincipled adventurer. Finding himself the object of unjust suspicions, he insults the King's Ministers, and is thereupon held (by the Ministers) to have insulted the King. He is condemned, in a magnificent finale, to perpetual imprisonment, and is led away to his place of confinement as the curtain falls on act i.

In act ii, we find Vasco di Gama in a dungeon, where, however harshly he may be treated in other respects, he is not deprived of the charms of female society. He does not, however, appear to set any high value upon them; for, while his beautiful African sings, he very coolly sleeps. Mlle. Saxe has scarcely finished her "sleep song" when the cunning but ferocious Nelusko, who has hitherto kept in the background, advances to the bed and prepares to strike Vasco. Selika seizes his hand; Vasco awakes, and soon afterwards a crowd of soldiers and attendants, with Inez at their head, enter the prison. Inez has consented to marry the Admiral in order to obtain Vasco's pardon, and Vasco is now set at liberty. To prove that Selika has no hold on his affections, but is merely his slave, he presents her to Inez, throwing in Nelusko as a trifle not worth caring for. Selika is wounded to the heart by Vasco's ingratitude, and Nelusko, who now hates the Christian foreigner more than ever, and not at all without reason, vows vengeance.

In the third act we make the acquaintance of the celebrated vessel which has given so much trouble, and which at one of the last rehearsals of the scenery plunged so violently in the direction of the orchestra that for a moment the conductor's head seemed to be in danger. The vessel is not worth all the fuss that has been made about it. It occupies the whole breadth of the stage, and it carries a very numerous crew, some of whom are seen in the rigging, others in the cabins—the principal singers remaining, of course, on deck. The vessel is commanded by the Admiral to whom the unhappy Inez has been forced to give her hand, and who, not content with depriving Vasco of his bride, has also robbed him of his great project. Nelusko has promised to guide him across the ocean to the unknown land, and is, in fact, tearing the vessel in the direction of his savage home. His intention, however, is to wreck the ship on a rocky coast well known to him, and which Vasco, who has contrived to follow the Admiral in a craft of his own, also remembers. As the danger is approaching, Vasco makes his appearance on the Admiral's quarterdeck and warns him against Nelusko. But the Admiral, so far from listening to Vasco's advice, reproaches him, and at last, as Vasco is obstinate, orders him to be executed for mutinous conduct. Selika springs at Inez and threatens to stab her unless

Vasco is immediately released. But at this moment the vessel strikes on the rocks and goes to pieces in the presence of the audience, but not until a number of savages, Nelusko's worthy brethren, have seized and murdered the crew.

Vasco, however, has been saved by the faithful Africaine; and in the fourth act we find him disposed, for the first time, to return her affection. The act closes with a very passionate duet, in which Selika expresses her love for her Christian friend, who, believing Inez to be dead, seems to have no objection to respond to it. We may note, *en passant*, that this duet, at the rehearsal, proved the most successful piece in the opera. It is quite worthy of the composer of the grand duet between Raoul and Valentine in the "Huguenots," to which, for the rest, it bears no resemblance whatever.

In the fifth act the dreams of the poor Africaine are dispelled by the discovery that Inez has been saved from the wreck. This act contains three admirable pieces: a duet between the two women; a trio, in which Selika, after a painful struggle, resolves to unite the two lovers and send them back to Europe; and an admirable solo—preceded by a marvellous ritornello for the violoncellos and altos—which the deponent Africaine sings as she lies down and dies beneath the upas-tree.

In this slight and hasty sketch of the most important work that has been given to the lyrical stage since the production of "Le Prophète," we have said very little about the music, and we will only add now that it would be unfair to judge of it from a (nominally) private performance which lasted nearly seven hours. It may be safely said that "L'Africaine" contains at least as many fine pieces as any other of Meyerbeer's operas; and we half believe that, when certain necessary and inevitable omissions have been made, it will be pronounced his masterpiece.

## Literature.

*Nelly Nowlan and Other Stories.* By Mrs. S. C. HALL. With Illustrations. T. Nelson and Sons.

THE principal tale in this little volume is a welcome addition to the many stories which Mrs. Hall has penned with a view to illustrate the peculiarities of Irish character. Its avowed purport is to expose the injustice to which the humbler classes belonging to the Green Isle have too often been subjected in being told, when seeking to improve their fortunes, that "no Irish need apply;" but, inasmuch as this fatal warning is now hardly recognised, even amongst the most hardened of servant-hunters, the author very properly states that since she first wrote upon this subject "a great and blessed change has taken place in reference to the disposition of England towards Ireland as regards the feeling of the people of the one country for the people of the other." Nevertheless, this diverting story is not the less an apt illustration of a grievance which, if it no longer exists, did at one time tend to keep alive those embers of embittered nationality which were wont to smoulder in Ireland. Nelly Nowlan is a smart, enthusiastic, and ambitious young damsel, who is imbued with that warm earnestness which is peculiarly characteristic of the southern county where she was born. She is living with a maiden aunt, in the "unpicturesque but comfortable" county of Wexford; and, being possessed of those fascinating charms which especially belong to "Erin's lovely daughters," she is the object of jealousy to the lazes, and of admiration to the laids, of the village. Unfortunately, however, her sagacious relative, instead of allowing her to choose a lover for herself, has selected one for her, in the person of one Tom Cassidy; but Nelly is deaf to all entreaties from Tom and to remonstrances from Aunt Peggy, and, in order to escape the risk of matrimony altogether, she hastens to Newcastle-on-Tyne, where she is welcomed by a cousin, who is the wife of a respectable tradesman in that smoke-dried town. She immediately endeavours to find employment as a domestic servant, and is rejected by a lady whose pleasing manner gave her strong reason to hope that she would favour her application, but who is unable to overcome her deep-rooted prejudice against "the Irish." Nelly is crestfallen at the disappointment, for she is too ambitious to be "beholden" to the kindness of her relatives; but the fates befriended her, by causing a very severe accident to happen to the lady, and, by a strange coincidence, she becomes an inmate of her house in the capacity of assistant nurse, and soon proves, by her honesty, intelligence, and attachment, that she is an illustration of the injustice done to her country. And now begin her "experiences" of the world and its ways, which she recounts with characteristic diction and much naïveté—for the author informs us that, through the kindness of a lady, Nelly is "no mean scholar"—in a series of letters to her aunt, all interspersed with moral reflections and unsophisticated satires upon the follies of society. These letters constitute, in fact, the substance of the story, which almost assumes the character of an autobiography; and it may be questioned whether Mrs. Hall has not rather detracted from than increased the interest by adopting this course. The eye becomes somewhat wearied by dwelling, page after page, upon that which, regarded as an epistolary communication, must be open to the objection that it is "long," for it is difficult to reconcile one's self to the idea of reading a letter which has apparently cost the writer something approaching a ream of paper. Nevertheless, it must at once be admitted that the letters are written with that natural ease and grace which have always distinguished Mrs. Hall's stories of Irish life; and they are especially remarkable for a healthy moral tone, which is always instructive, and never marred by a tinge of ill-nature; albeit the narrations are the outpourings of a Celtic brain seeking to describe the prevailing idiosyncrasies of the Saxon race. There is little or no plot in the book (to use the much-hackneyed theatrical phrase) and the characters introduced are few. Nelly Nowlan's experience, as far as it is recorded in this volume, ends where it began—in the service of an amiable and highly esteemed lady in this country; and the most important incident, as affecting her personal interest and position, is the fact that, while she is strengthening her mind with worldly knowledge, and setting down the sayings and doings of those around her for the delectation of her aunt, the latter actually marries the very man whose suit the girl herself had formerly rejected. The receipt of this intelligence causes much sorrow to the susceptible Nelly; but she is comforted by her gentle mistress; and comes at length to the conclusion—based upon all she has seen and heard of the fickleness of the ruder sex—that she would rather go through the world as she is "than be tied to such an uncertainty as a husband." Perhaps Nelly was right; for she was made to utter the expression by one who has well studied the world, and who has never written, from her own peculiar view of it, with more agreeable truthfulness than in the present volume. The two other tales composing the volume, "The Last in the Lease" and "Nobody's Boat," are short but interesting sketches of domestic life; and they do not the less worthily represent the cultivated power of the writer, by reason of the fact that "they have already been favourably received by the public"—a public which Mrs. Hall declares has treated her so well, that she is "an author without a grievance." Envious and amiable lady!

*Cressy and Poitiers; or, the Story of the Black Prince's Page.* By J. G. EDGAR, Author of "How I Won My Spurs," &c. Illustrated with numerous Engravings, principally from designs by Robert Dudley and Gustave Doré. S. O. Beeton.

THIS is one of a series of books projected by the late Mr. Edgar, with the aid of Mr. Beeton, his publisher, to show—through the medium of spirit-stirring adventures and personal memoirs, drawn from historical sources—the state and growth of England from the times before the Conqueror to those of the Revolution; from William of Normandy to William of Orange. The idea was certainly a good one, and those who have had the advantage of reading the former works of the same author—"Danes, Saxons, and Normans," "Runnymede and Lincoln Fair," "How I Won My Spurs," &c.—know how successfully it has been carried out. The present pro-

duction most worthily fulfils the promise held out in the former portion of the series; and indeed it may, perhaps, be considered the most interesting of the collection—blending, as it does, all that is best known of the romantic incidents of that portion of our history through which it travels, with an imaginative filling up of detail, which gives to the book the charm of a work of fiction. Not that it would be just to Mr. Edgar to say that the historical character of his work is less meritorious than it would have been had he dealt with his subject in a more didactic form; the prevailing and attractive feature of the book is that, while it preserves historical accuracy as far as was in the author's power, it does so in a manner which renders it as entertaining as it is instructive. The story is written in an autobiographical form, and the career of the Black Prince is told by his Page, from the time of the latter's arrival in London, to feed his ambition with hopes and prospects of a bright future, to the period of the Prince's lamented death. The descriptions of battles and romantic adventures which specially distinguish the volume are given with an appreciative power and a vigour of expression such as have always characterised the writings of Mr. Edgar, and have shown him to be thoroughly versed in the history with which he deals, and to be capable of handling it in the chivalric spirit of an ancient chronicler, combined with the perceptive qualities of a modern romancer. The book is, of course, adapted to readers of mature age as well as to youth; but it was originally published in the *Boy's Own Magazine*, and, as a present to the young, no more appropriate or slightly volume could well be chosen. The illustrations are numerous and vigorous, and are most useful and satisfactory aids to the movement of the story.

*Rust, Smut, Mildew, and Mould. An Introduction to the Study of Microscopic Fungi.* By M. C. COOKE, President of the Society of Amateur Botanists. With nearly 300 Figures by J. E. Sowerby. Robert Hardwicke.

THIS book, though bearing a title which will be neither tempting nor intelligible to the general reader, certainly suggests the reflection that the most interesting illustrations of natural history and botanical products may often be found amongst objects which mankind are apt to pass by with thoughtless disregard. That the "little pests of the field and garden," which the author has designated as above, should have been thought worthy the minute attention and deep study of a scientific inquirer, is strong proof of the fact that where enthusiasm is felt it can never be more successfully exercised than in promoting discoveries for the advancement of agriculture, horticulture, and microscopy. The study of trees and flowers, in regard to their form and beauty, is, undoubtedly, a most fascinating means of acquiring a knowledge of the minute mysteries of nature; but the pursuit of information upon the subject of those excrescences or fungi which tend to destroy the same form and beauty is not less pregnant with interesting material for investigation; and the author of the present volume proceeds to show that this investigation opens up a grand field for discovery, wherein the microscope is essentially necessary. Hence he adopts the term "Microscopic Fungi," and he demonstrates that the botanical student may be of infinite service to the world by discovering the origin, tendency, and characteristics of those fungi—an operation of the mind which seems perfectly akin to the study of disease in animals. The writer disclaims any intention to burden the reader with a dry series of botanical descriptions, and, in order to avoid falling into this error, he has freed his text as far as possible from technical phraseology, and has published, in the form of an appendix, a classified explanation of the various fungi contained in the volume. The unaffected ardour with which Mr. Cooke has set about his task, and the truly captivating manner in which he has dealt with apparently uninviting material, afford a practical and instructive example of the good that may arise from patient, well-directed study, in whatever field it may be pursued. With the genuine enthusiasm of a devotee, he commends, in sober earnestness (to use his own words), the pursuit to all who possess a microscope and leisure to use it; and he adds that, if variety be desired, they will find at least 2000 species of fungi, for a perfect knowledge of which that instrument must be employed. With such a strong inducement to labour and study as is here set forth, the book should command the attention of every botanist who would increase his own knowledge and convey instruction upon so interesting a theme.

*The Applications of Geology to the Arts and Manufactures.* By Professor D. T. ANSTED. Robert Hardwicke.

A course of lectures, delivered by Professor Ansted in obedience to the wish of the Council of the Society of Arts, form the material upon which this valuable work is based; and no more fitting testimony could be given to the judgment exercised by those gentlemen than is to be found in these thoughtful and well-digested pages. The origin of the lectures alluded to is thus described:—The late Dr. Cantor, of the East Indian Medical Service, who died in the year 1860, bequeathed one half of his residuary estate to the Society of Arts, to be applied as should be deemed best for promoting the objects of the Society, and the council decided on employing the proceeds in establishing courses of lectures, open to members of the body, illustrating and explaining the various applications of science to the arts. In furtherance of this project the subject of Practical Geology was intrusted to Professor Ansted; and, could Dr. Cantor himself have perused the contents of this volume, he would assuredly have been of opinion that, at least so far as the Professor is concerned, his bequest had been honourably and judiciously applied. The book is of far too scientific a character to demand any lengthened comment in the columns of a newspaper; but the practical student who is not already acquainted with these lectures will learn with satisfaction that he may find in the volume a detailed account of the working out of the great theorems of geology, and their bearing upon agriculture, architecture, engineering, and mining—their influence on the progress of the various arts of construction, and on the discovery of the materials of which things are constructed. The Professor proceeds to deal with this interesting and comprehensive subject through all its ramifications; and his process of reasoning is so exhaustive, so lucid, and so entirely free from any undue attempt at technical display, that, apart from the large amount of useful knowledge to be derived from his book, even the non-scientific reader may find in it much to enchain his attention and exercise his thoughts. The author, in fact, lays it down as an axiom that geology, applied to the arts, is a subject of vital interest to all of us, his theory being (to quote his own words) that "all that is useful and beautiful, and all that is intrinsically valuable and employed in the arts—and, indeed, all that conduces to life itself—is thus derived from the earth." Upon such authority who can question the truth of this wholesome doctrine?

EDUCATION IN ITALY.—A volume of statistics concerning education in Italy has just been presented to the King by the Minister of Public Instruction. The statistics relate to a year which comprises part of 1862 and part of 1863. That year shows an improvement on the preceding twelve months as regards asylums and schools for young children, which had increased by 133, and there was also an increase of 1987 elementary schools—928 for boys and 1059 for girls. Private schools, on the other hand, had decreased by 1055. The greatest progress had been in the provinces last annexed to the kingdom of Italy, and which Government had especially assisted. There is certainly great need of all that has been done and of much more. According to the last Census, out of a total population of 21,777,534 souls, there were 3,884,245 who could read and write (2,623,605 men and 1,260,640 women); 833,588 who could only read (of these the women were as more than five to four of the men), and 16,999,701 who could neither read nor write—7,889,238 men and 9,110,463 women. If we admit that ignorance is one cause of crime, it is early to dismiss the executioner from Italy. Piedmont and the Basilicata occupy the first and last place on the register of knowledge. In the former province, out of every 1000 inhabitants 573 cannot read or write; in the latter, out of the same number, 912 are in the same benighted state. Next to Piedmont is Lombardy, which has 599 untaught out of 1000; and then Liguria, 705 in 1000. Tuscany and Emilia are about the average of the whole country—778 and 803 in the 1000; Umbria, the Marches, Puglia, and the Abruzzi are rather better. In the Basilicata, Calabria, Sicily, and Sardinia, more than nine-tenths of the inhabitants can neither read nor write.



LAW AND CRIME.

We have frequently urged upon public attention the lack of method in the present system of punishment for assault. The fault is less that of the law than of its administrators. There are many cases of hasty blows, struck without premeditation and upon sudden provocation, in which the infliction of a pecuniary fine is sufficient to satisfy justice. But with these the mitigation of the sentence should cease. A ruffian who, drunk or sober, constitutes himself a public terror and wantonly assaults the first unoffending passenger who may happen to fall in his way, surely ought not to be able to pay for pounding the human face and body as if he had only smashed a small plate of glass. Mr. Thomas Orton, medical officer of the Limehouse Board of Works, has recently written to a contemporary expressing his rational indignation at the consequences of the system in his own case. In the discharge of his duty, Mr. Orton was, some days since, passing along the public street, when an athletic blackguard, without a word of warning or provocation, sprang at him and beat him furiously upon the eyes, mouth, nose, and chest. The vagabond was taken into custody and charged with the assault, to which he pleaded that he was drunk and had mistaken the gentleman for a clergyman. The magistrate (Mr. Paget) said that, as the assault was committed in drunkenness, and as the prisoner bore a good character, he would give him an opportunity of paying a fine of 20s. Mr. Orton hereupon writes to point out that the character of his assailant was notoriously that of a bully and of a ruffian; and that, for a much less severe assault upon the Marquis of Blandford and a friend of his, two soldiers were each sentenced, at another police court, to two months' hard labour, without option of payment of fines. Mr. Orton adds that, as he cannot obtain due legal protection, he shall henceforth carry his own in his pocket, which, of course, means that he intends to provide himself with lethal weapons. This is but the natural consequence of the lack of security for life and property. Such security every citizen of a well-organised State is entitled at least to expect, if not in every instance to enjoy. The case which we next record shows the evil of forcing upon individuals the necessity of self-arms for protection.

A poor blundering not forced himself into a garden at Peckham. The occupier of the house was a shipbroker, named Burnborne. Burnborne, aroused at the small hours of the morning, saw a fellow tramping among his flowers, and at once, seizing the revolver which has of late years become an ordinary piece of bed-room furniture, fired at the intruder. Fortunately, Burnborne's aim was as defective as his knowledge of law; for, as he was afterwards told by Mr. Elliott, the magistrate, he would, had he killed the man without challenging him or knowing his business, have been liable to a trial for murder. So the drunken man, a little sobered by fright, ran into a summer-house. A neighbour, named Pitt, heard the discharge of Burnborne's revolver, and went into his garden. He found the stray cockney bacchanal crouched in a summer-house, and at once, without legal excuse, began to haul him to the station-house. The man resisted, and Pitt, apparently in as desperate a struggle as Burnborne himself, struck the unfortunate straggler a heavy blow over the forehead with a life-preserver, covering him from head to foot with blood and narrowly missing killing him. Now, had Pitt killed the man under such circumstances he would have been, we have no hesitation in stating, just as much in danger of trial for murder as Burnborne. There had been no felony committed or attempted, and Pitt had no right to apprehend the man, who was therefore justified in resisting an unlawful apprehension. As it fell out, the man was taken before a police magistrate and discharged. If he should sue Pitt civilly for damages for assault, and prosecute Burnborne for attempted murder, these two highly injudicious persons might be put to some inconvenience. Now, this is exactly the state of civilisation to which some of our police magistrates are leading us. We have no faith in the police. Ruffians, when apprehended, are dealt with on terms almost of affectionate leniency; and our only resource is consequently in the ready pistol, dirk, or life-preserver. Cannot the magistracy perceive that by depriving us of our lawful defences they actually force us, in some sort, to assume the minatory and, on slight occasion, the aggressive? Only a few days since we heard the foreman of a grand jury at the Old Bailey announce to the Recorder on the bench the fact that street robberies, accompanied with savage violence, were increasing in frequency. This gentleman expressed the recommendation of the jury that the punishment for such offences should be made more severe than heretofore, and the learned Recorder promised to attend to the suggestion.

Mr. Love, officer of the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, having received information of arrangements for a cockfight, attended at a "sporting house," kept by one Jimmy Shaw, a prize-fighter, and was admitted, on payment of half-a-crown, to view what a hundred years ago was called "Royal sport." The charge for admission was reduced in the officer's case from half-a-sovereign, as the proceedings were about half over. The company present appears to have been exactly a modern counterpart of that represented in Hogarth's famous picture—a large amount of low ruffianly with a dash of aristocracy. The cocks were trimmed in the sporting fashion, by having their combs and dewlaps pared close to the head and their spurs sawn off and replaced by others of metal. Mr. Love watched the fighting until the door was suddenly burst open by a strong body of police. The sportsmen took to flight in all available directions, but thirty-six of them were caught and taken before Mr. Knox. The magistrate said that there were two classes of the defendants, those who paid for admission and those who profited by the exhibition. Both sides alike must be able to afford to pay a fine of £5, which was accordingly imposed on all the offenders.

Mrs. Constance Kent, whose name was about five years ago made public in connection with the mysterious murder of her infant brother at Road, attended at Bow-street on Tuesday last, and signed before Sir Thomas Henry the following confession:—

I, Constance Emilie Kent, alone and unaided, on the night of the 29th of June, 1860, murdered, at Road-hill House, Wiltshire, one Francis Saville Kent. Before the deed no one knew of my intention, nor after it of my guilt. No one assisted me in the crime, nor in my evasion of discovery.

No further particulars were recorded by herself or

inquired for either by the chief magistrate or by the justices at Trowbridge, whither the young lady was forwarded in custody. It appears that Miss Kent has been for a long time since the murder of the infant an inmate of a nunnery under the control of clergymen outwardly professing adherence to the Church of England, but not discouraging the Romish practices or seclusion and confession. Whether this confession be true or not remains to be seen. It may be that long brooding over the terrible tragedy at her father's house, and the influences brought to bear upon her at the nunnery, have reduced her to insanity; it may even be that she sought by a false confession to obtain her release from the rigid rule of the religious house, even though the exchange should be for a prison. It is disappointing that some further inquiry was not made as to the details of her story, and that the public should be for at least a week longer, until the young lady's appearance on remand, kept in a state of suspense which a very little trouble would have obviated.

MONEY OPERATIONS OF THE WEEK.

THE news at hand to the effect that President Lincoln has been assassinated has produced some heaviness in the market for all National Stocks. The fall in the quotations, however, has been only moderate. Consols, for Money, have marked 90 1/2 to 91, for Account, 91 to 91 1/2. Reduced and New Three per Cent. 104 1/2 to 105, for Money, 105 to 105 1/2, for Account, 105 1/2 to 106. Indian Stocks, 104 to 105, for Money, 105 to 105 1/2, for Account, 105 1/2 to 106. India Bonds, 104 to 105, for Money, 105 to 105 1/2, for Account, 105 1/2 to 106.

The supply of money in the general discount market is very large, and the market for accommodation by no means active, at the unexcessive rates for the best commercial paper:—

Thirty Days' Bills	..	..	3 1/2	per cent.
Sixty Days	..	..	4	"
Three Months	..	..	4 1/2	"
Six Months	..	..	5	"
Six Months	..	..	5 1/2	"

The imports of bullion have been on a full average scale; but the quantity of gold sent into the Bank of England has not increased to any extent. The sum of £206,000 has been withdrawn from the Bank for shipment to Antwerp and Constantinople. The market for ready all Foreign Securities has ruled heavy, and an element of doubt has been thrown upon the value of the same. In Spanish, Turkish, and Italian Securities, The Confederate Loan has been very dull, and is now quoted at 11 to 13. Colombian Six per Cent. Bonds, 104 to 105, for Money, 105 to 105 1/2, for Account, 105 1/2 to 106. Egyptian Seven per Cent. Bonds, 104 to 105, for Money, 105 to 105 1/2, for Account, 105 1/2 to 106. Mexican Three per Cent. Bonds, 104 to 105, for Money, 105 to 105 1/2, for Account, 105 1/2 to 106. Russian Old Five per Cent. Bonds, 104 to 105, for Money, 105 to 105 1/2, for Account, 105 1/2 to 106. Spanish Five per Cent. Bonds, 104 to 105, for Money, 105 to 105 1/2, for Account, 105 1/2 to 106. 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Plain Glacé, in 30 new shades, 2s. 6d. per yard.  
Fashionable Fanny Silks, very elegant,  
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